Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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POLL RESULTS

What is your primary source of local news?

Newspaper	30
Television	5
Internet	74
Combination of three	49

Sunday, August 5, 2012

INSIDE

BUSINESS

The U.S. economy generated jobs last month at the fastest pace since February, a sign it is resilient enough to pull out of a midyear slump and grow modestly even as the rest of the world slows down.

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NATION

The United States on Friday criticized China's new military garrison in the contested South China Sea as risking an escalation in tensions.

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WORLD

The little girl who miraculously survived the bullet that narrowly missed her eye and exited through the top of her head. The mother whose arm was blown off as she rushed to help the child whose head was blown away.

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AS CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION ON AG, DPS GROW

Buckingham withdraws resignation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham withdrew his resignation yesterday, a day after officials and ordinary citizens started calling for an investigation into his and the Department of Public Safety's alleged failed attempt to avoid having the AG served a summons to appear in court this morning in connection with criminal charges that the Office of the Public Auditor filed on Friday.

» 'Blatant abuse of public funds, corruption'

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial concurred with the AG's status yesterday, press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed last night.

Buckingham and his wife Pam left Saipan aboard a 6am Delta flight to Narita, Japan on Saturday.

That was a day after OPA filed criminal charges against him in connection with his alleged hosting of a delegate candidate party at the governor's house in August 2010 and his approval of a $400,000 sole-source ARRA management contract to a former Cabinet member in October 2010, among other things.

Buckingham's statement to the media yesterday confirmed that he was served the summons to appear in court at 9am today.

He said "family plans were made some time ago that include travel over the weekend. Such travel precludes attendance at a court proceeding on Monday, Aug. 6. I will, however, be represented so this matter may proceed. I anticipate a request will be made to continue Monday's proceeding."

He said he continues to serve as "the attorney general for the Commonwealth."

"The unexpected filing by the Office of the Public Auditor has placed a cloud on me and on the office. Accordingly, I have notified the governor that I have withdrawn my previously issued notice of intent to resign. The governor concurs with this status," he said.

Buckingham is supposed to be on a 30-day annual leave starting last Saturday, when he and his wife left Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

In this file photo, Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham, center, gestures as he answers questions from the media, while former assistant attorneys general Brian D. Gallagher, left, and David Lochabay look on. A day after leaving Saipan, Buckingham withdrew his notice of resignation yesterday and will face the charges filed against him by the Office of the Public Auditor although he said he would be represented in court this morning.

'Investigate AG, DPS'

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said Buckingham and DPS need to be investigated for alleged attempts to shield the AG from being served a summons at the airport early Saturday morning.

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'If convicted, Buckingham faces less than a year in jail'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

If convicted, Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham will face a sentence of less than a year in prison and not allowed to be employed with the CNMI government for 10 years.

The Office of the Public Auditor filed on Friday in court charges against Buckingham that are all misdemeanor—one count of use of public supplies, services, time and personnel for campaign activities; one count of use of the name of a

See JAIL on Page 4

Fitial says naming Pai as public auditor is his 'biggest regret in life'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that his "biggest regret in life" is appointing Michael Pai as public auditor in 2008. The governor issued the statement yesterday, in the wake of the Office of the Public Auditor's filing of criminal charges against Attorney General Edward Buckingham a day before the AG was to leave the CNMI.

The governor believes that Pai has a personal ax to grind with Buckingham, "and is now using the resources of OPA to advance his own personal vendetta."

Pai has yet to respond to media request for comment on the governor's statement as of last night.

Just like Pai, Buckingham was also a

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'Include Rep. Froilan Tenorio in your prayers.' PAGE 2
Yana as 3rd party custodian for suspended lawyer Atalig denied. PAGE 3

Local

‘Include Rep. Froilan Tenorio in your prayers’

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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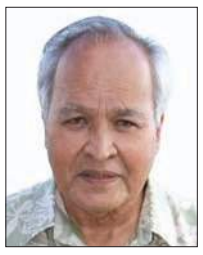
REPORTER

During a moment of silence before the start of session on Friday afternoon, House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) urged his colleagues to include Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) in their prayers as he undergoes further medical checkup and treatment in Arizona.

Cabrera, in an interview after the session, said Tenorio may not be back for at least three more months.

Cabrera said he and Tenorio met in Hawaii. Cabrera came back last week from Hawaii, where he had been since June.

“He told me he will be heading over (from Hawaii) to Arizona for further testing or operation. I believe he won’t be back for the next three months. That’s what he told me,” Cabrera said.


Tenorio

The speaker said Tenorio may not be seeking re-election either. Since 2010, Tenorio had been saying he won’t seek re-election in the Nov.6 mid-term elections.

Tenorio served as CNMI governor from 1994 to 1998. He ran for governor twice after his term but did not succeed.

In 2009, he ran for a House seat representing Precinct 1 and won under Gov. Benigno R. Fitial’s Covenant Party. Tenorio became House speaker of the 17th Legislature which was sworn into office in January 2010. A year later or in January 2011, Tenorio stepped down as speaker.

In March this year, Tenorio also resigned from the Covenant Party, whose titular head is now Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos after Fitial moved back to head the Republican Party.

Cabrera said the House leadership will continue to push for the legalization of casino gambling on Saipan, which Tenorio has always been advocating for to fuel the CNMI economy.

Bill moving OPM back to Civil Service now heads to Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A bill restoring a non-partisan and independent civil service system by moving back the Office of Personnel Management to the Civil Service Commission now heads to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, following the House’s passage of Senate Bill 17-62, Senate Substitute 1 on Friday afternoon.

The 17-month-old bill passed the House by a vote of 16-1, and without debate or discussion.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), author of the bill, said yesterday that he has always believed that OPM should be under the Civil Service Commission to ensure that classified positions are free from political influence.

“For that I am grateful to my fellow lawmakers for passing the bill and it now heads to the governor. I hope the governor considers it and looks at its merits. This is also one way to reduce the size of government,” Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune*.

The 15-page bill seeks to move the governor’s power to administer personnel policies back to the Civil Service Commission to restore a non-partisan and independent civil service system that Article 20 of the CNMI Constitution requires.

SB 17-62 seeks to repeal Section 3 of Public Law 13-1 and repeal the Civil Service Act. It seeks to return OPM to the control of the Civil Service Commission for administrative efficiency.

“The Legislature finds that exemptions from the Civil Service System are being abused and civil service employees are being hired as excepted service employees, circumventing position requirements, and salary limits,” the bill says.

Under the bill, the Civil Service Commission will still be composed of seven members appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), in an interview after Friday’s session, said the bill “removes politics from hiring” in government.

Navy to conduct training at Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Aug. 7-8 from 9am to 4pm.

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10”N/144° 30”E, 13° 10”N/144° 42”E, 12° 50”N/144° 45”E, 11° 00”N/144° 45”E, 11° 00”N/143° 00”E, 11° 45”N/143° 00”E, 12° 50”N/144° 30”E.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. ***(PR)***

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Yana as 3rd party custodian for suspended lawyer Atalig denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Friday denied suspended lawyer Antonio M. Atalig's request to accept two persons as his third-party custodians.

After listening to testimony and arguments by counsels, Camacho found Atalig's proposed third party custodians—suspended lawyer Reynaldo Yana and Atalig's sister-in-law Nelida Atalig—not suitable to serve as third-party custodians.

Citing Yana's previous detention for contempt of court, Camacho said Yana has no credibility to serve as a third-party custodian.

With respect to Nelida Atalig, Camacho said he declined her as third-party custodian based on her medical reason.

In his testimony, Yana said he does not see any problem at all for him to serve as third-party custodian for Atalig.

Yana said if accepted as third-party custodian he will no longer be a friend of Atalig as he will be his custodian.

"I will be very strict," Yana said.

Yana described Atalig as a "very good man" as long as he doesn't drink.

With respect to his previous detention for contempt of court, Yana cited briefly the background of the case.

Yana said Judge Kenneth Govendo ordered him and Atalig to return $1.1 million in attorney's fees that then Judge Juan T. Lizama awarded them.

Yana said Govendo ordered them to give back the money, but that it's impossible because they already spent the money.

Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke, counsel for Atalig, said Yana and Nelida Atalig are sufficient third party custodians.

Hardwicke recommended to allow Atalig post 10 percent of the $25,000 cash bail, have a weekly review hearing, and constant monitoring.

Hardwicke also stated that his client is willing to comply with the court's bail order requiring the defendant to undergo counseling with respect to domestic violence within 48 hours upon release after posting bail.

Assistant attorney general Darren Robinson opposed allowing Yana and Nelida Atalig to serve as third party custodians.

Robinson said Yana and Atalig did not obey a court's order and as a result, Govendo found them in contempt of court.

Atalig was brought to court last Tuesday, July 31, after he was arrested on July 29 for allegedly assaulting his two minor children and threatening to kill them and their mother.

Camacho then imposed a $25,000 cash bail for Atalig's temporary release on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, child abuse, and disturbing the peace.

For contempt of court, Yana and Atalig were previously detained at the Department of Corrections for nearly one and one-half years.

In May 2012, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman suspended Atalig and Yana from practicing law in the CNMI for refusing to return $1.1 million in attorney's fees that the two obtained from the Angel Malite estate.

Delegate seeks National Guard for American Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—American Samoa's nonvoting delegate in Congress wants the U.S. territory to have a National Guard unit.

Delegate Eni Faleomavaega (EHN'-ee FAHL'-ee-oh-ma-vah-ENG'-uh) introduced legislation Thursday to authorize the Department of Defense to establish the unit.

He says that because the South Pacific island is prone to natural disasters, having a National Guard unit would be helpful for coordinating first responders during emergencies such as the deadly 2009 tsunami.

Hawaii's National Guard unit was dispatched to American Samoa in the aftermath of the tsunami that killed 34 people in the territory.

Faleomavaega notes there's a unit for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as for Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

EMO warns of high surf until today

The CNMI Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches today, Aug. 6, due to life-threatening rip currents.

In a high surf advisory issued late afternoon yesterday, EMO said that a large west-northwest swell will cause hazardous surf along west-facing reefs. A west swell will cause combined seas of 8 to 10 feet tonight

"Therefore, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is advising the general public especially beachgoers, fishermen, tourists, swimmers, divers, and surfers to exercise caution along exposed reefs and beaches," part of the EMO advisory read. ***(EMO)***

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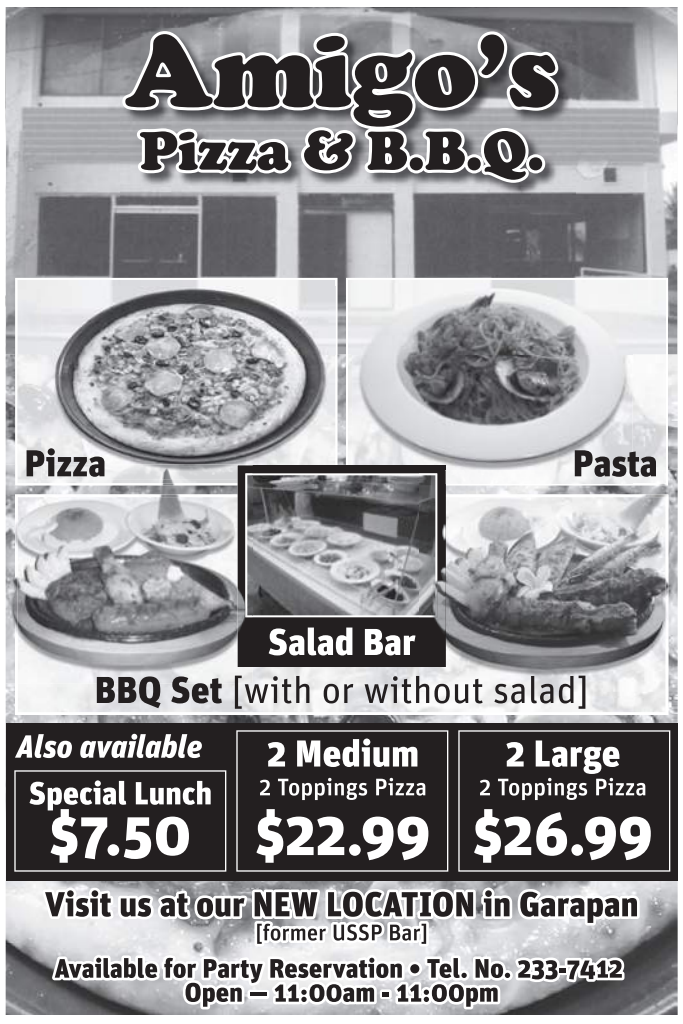

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FITIAL

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Fitial appointee.

OPA's criminal charges against Buckingham are in connection with the AG's alleged hosting of a delegate candidate's gathering at the governor's house in August 2010 and the award of a $400,000 sole-source ARRA management contract, among other things.

Fitial expressed "grave disappointment that the Office of the Public Auditor has strayed away from being an independent and impartial government watchdog agency."

"It's truly sad when the public has to see that its public auditor is politicking under the color of his office," Fitial said in a statement yesterday.

Fitial said Pai "has tarnished the integrity and character of the OPA."

"When I appointed him in 2008, I expected him to continue the fine work of his predecessors, but he has failed us all and for that, I consider his appointment the biggest regret of my life," Fitial said in a statement.

Pai, OPA, and its employees, however, found an ally in Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who said yesterday that OPA and its officials and employees have the courage and determination to stand up for the rule of law.

"Their service protects us from those in power who believe they can rule our islands by force. Mr. Mike Pai, Attorney George Hasselback, and all the staff at the Office of the Public Auditor are to be congratulated for the bravery they have shown in serving the public interest. Clearly, there are powerful forces at work to threaten and intimidate them, yet they have risen above fear to bring these charges of public corruption against the Attorney General," Sablan said in a statement on Buckingham's departure from Saipan.

On Wednesday, Buckingham told the media he's resigning and his last day of work was Aug. 3 and after that, he will take his 30-day annual leave. He said he's leaving last weekend.

On Friday, OPA filed criminal charges against Buckingham and tried to serve him penal summons to appear in court at 9am today.

Buckingham was not served the summons until right before his Saturday morning flight departed for Narita, Japan. He had said he and his wife were going to San Francisco, California when they leave the CNMI.

He and his wife were escorted to the airport by Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro and other police officers, witnesses KSPN 2 reporter Tina Sablan and Glen Hunter said.

With the turn of events in the past days, Buckingham withdrew his notice of resignation, which the governor concurred with yesterday.

The Fitial administration said OPA's charges against Buckingham stemmed from a gathering held at the governor's residence and a sole-source contract awarded to Integrated Professionals Solution, and both of these issues date back to 2010.

The governor said it is "increasingly suspicious that OPA could not come up with charges over a two-year period, but once Buckingham announced his resignation, charges were filed within two days."

"This is absolutely unbecoming of a public auditor. His job is to ensure that accountability is upheld in government, yet he is using his office for his own personal enrichment," the governor said.

Fitial also said that Pai's recent actions "not only taint the image of OPA, but he has taken all the hard work of former public auditors like Mike Sablan and Leo LaMotte and threw them out the window."

The governor also noted that during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation and the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations on Oct. 15, 2008, "Pai vowed to keep the Office of the Public Auditor independent, factual, and fair to all concerned."

"Obviously, Mike Pai has failed on his promise. He has severely compromised OPA's independence by politicking and by putting his personal interests before the interests of the Commonwealth. We can now see his true colors, and those colors are looking like mud," the governor added.

Sablan, for his part, only has praises for Pai and the rest of OPA.

The delegate also said that the private citizens who brought the issues to OPA "and kept up the pressure for action, are to be commended for their bravery as well."

"Despite threats, personal attacks, and criticism of their efforts, these citizens never relented in their collective actions to ensure that until these charges are finally resolved they remain in the public attention," he said.

Sablan also said there are many good officers in the Department of Public Safety, who were not involved in the incident at the Saipan airport on Saturday morning.

"These officers work under difficult circumstances, under threat themselves, and without essential resources. As a member of Congress I have been working to get our police officers the basics they need, uniforms and vehicles, so they can serve the public effectively and with honor. They never can do so, however, if those at the very top of our government are corrupt," he said.

Sablan, seeking reelection, said he has always been concerned that the resources of the CNMI government could be used to promote a particular candidate for federal office or to coerce government employees with respect to a federal election.

"For that reason, my election committee filed an open government request in 2010 to make public all records of the Attorney General's alleged use of his office for political purposes. The resulting investigation has now led to charges being brought against Mr. Buckingham," he said.

Sablan added that in his capacity as a member of Congress, he made sure that the Inspector General conducted a full investigation of the management of federal ARRA funds.

"Findings in that investigation are now a basis for some of the charges being brought against Attorney General Buckingham. Whatever federal or local laws were violated or corrupt practices took place on the part of Mr. Buckingham or any other public official or private individual in the expenditure of federal funds is, again, a matter to be determined in a court of law," he said.

Sablan said the CNMI is saddened by the turn of events, including the loss of trust in elected and appointed officials to serve the people.

"We are saddened to think of the shame the many honest civil servants must feel at these charges of corruption in government offices. We are saddened to think of the personal cost to those individuals and their families, who have risked physical injury to protect us and keep us all informed of these events. We should take heart, however, knowing that we live in a Commonwealth where ultimately no one is above the law and where there are still brave men and women who are willing to stand up and fight for what is right," he added.

JAIL

From Page 1

government department or agency to campaign and/or express support for a candidate running for public office; two counts of misconduct in public office; and one count of failure to produce documents and information.

OPA legal counsel George L. Hasselback stated in the information that the offense of misconduct in public office carries a penalty by a fine of no more than $1,000 fine and by a prohibition from employment with the CNMI government for 10 years following conviction.

Hasselback said each of the remaining charges carries a penalty of a fine of no more than $500 and prohibition from employment with the CNMI government for 10 years following conviction.

The charges were in connection with Buckingham's alleged hosting of a delegate candidate's party at Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's house in August 2010 and the AG's approval of a $400,000 sole-source American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) management contract award in October 2010 to Michael Ada within days of stepping down as a Cabinet secretary.

OPA staff served Buckingham with a penal summons to appear in Superior Court today, Monday, shortly before he left the CNMI on Saturday early morning for his 6am Delta flight to Narita, Japan.

Buckingham has stated that his family travel precludes him from attending today's court proceeding. He, however, said his representative will appear in order for the hearing to proceed.

As of yesterday, the Department of Public Safety had yet to reply to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comment about allegations that DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro and six to eight other DPS police officers used marked and unmarked vehicles in escorting Buckingham at the airport at 3:30am Saturday.

DPS also had yet to response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comment to allegations that some police officers pushed KSPN2 reporter Tina Sablan while she was taking video on Buckingham's arrival at the airport.

Sablan wrote on social media that it was DPS deputy commissioner Ogumoro who carried Buckingham's luggage.

"Police physically pushed me and ordered me to 'get back' while I was filming," Sablan said.

Concerned citizen Glenn Hunter, who was with Sablan at the time, called the CNMI a "mafia country" as he witnessed "one of the most disturbing, disgusting, and outright corrupt acts" that this administration has done yet.

Hunter said at least eight on duty police officers and DPS deputy commissioner Ogumoro were used as shields and escorts for Buckingham and his wife in his escape from Saipan in an attempt to flee a penal summons.

Hunter said Sablan was assaulted and restrained in a public area.

He said two to three officers manhandled Sablan, prompting him to protest and ask the officers to stop and question them as to what grounds they had to do such a thing.

"This is not an ordinary citizen who is running from the law. This was the Attorney General of the CNMI. If he could do this what on earth has he done up to this point? Just how much has he overseen? We know about the massage-gate, gun-gate, election-gate, ARRA-gate, OPA-gate, and so much more," Hunter said.

BUCKINGHAM

From Page 1

Manglona said the use of public resources—six to eight DPS personnel including a top official and marked and unmarked DPS vehicles—to escort an AG that is going on vacation is "out of the ordinary," "very alarming" and a "cause for concern" that should be investigated.

He said if DPS personnel were at the airport to shield the AG from being served a summons, then that would be an "obstruction of justice" and "possible cover up."

Manglona said as CNMI attorney general, Buckingham "should know better than not to appear in court when there is an order for him to do so."

Witnesses KSPN 2 reporter Tina Sablan and Glen Hunter said Buckingham and his wife were escorted by DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro and six to eight police officers.

Hunter and Sablan said Ogumoro and other police officers carried the luggage of the Buckinghams.

Florida-based human rights activist and former Rota teacher Wendy Doromal said "all of the government employees and others involved in aiding and abetting Buckingham in his attempt to avoid facing criminal charges should also be investigated and charged for any unlawful or unethical violations."

"It is not acceptable that DPS Deputy Commissioner and eight police officers who are charged with enforcing all laws are using government resources, equipment, and personnel to assist a high-ranking government official to break the law and become a fugitive from justice," Doromal told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said Buckingham's example and actions "are not befitting the office he holds and are an insult to the good people of the CNMI."

"He should not be allowed to serve as attorney general for even one more day," she said.

Doromal also said she will be alerting the proper federal officials "about this latest incident in a long series of corrupt and illegal acts committed by CNMI officials."

"I will request an investigation, just as I asked the Office of the Special Counsel to investigate Buckingham for violating the Hatch Act. Both local and federal law enforcement authorities should investigate this matter, including scrutinizing the participation of all employees from the federally funded Department of Public Safety," she said.

She added that "there are accusations that files were ordered destroyed in the federally funded Office of the Attorney General."

"This also warrants an investigation. Additionally, there should also be an investigation to determine what role Governor Fitial and his office played in this latest scandal," Doromal said.

Manglona, for his part, said even if there was an order from a higher up for DPS to escort Buckingham, DPS officers are supposed to uphold the law and not violate it.

'Adding to the outrage'

Sablan and Hunter also said police officers "physically pushed" Sablan and "ordered" her to "get back" while she was filming and attempting to interview Buckingham.

Doromal said this is adding to the outrage.

"If these so-called 'public safety' thugs are not fired or prosecuted, I hope a civil suit is filed against them and the DPS," she said.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said having DPS police officers escort an AG to the airport "raises suspicion."

Cruz, a former police officer, said the only reason why an AG or any other government official would be escorted to the airport is if there was a threat to the AG's safety, which was unheard of.

"It would be a different matter if DPS was there because they tried to help prevent the AG from being served the summons," he said, adding that this committee will seek investigation into the matter.

The Senate requested OPA, as well as the NMI Bar Association, to further investigate Buckingham in connection with his involvement in the hosting of a delegate candidate gathering and approval of a sole-source ARRA management contract to Michael Ada within days of stepping down as a Cabinet secretary.

'Horrified'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) also issued yesterday a statement on Buckingham's departure from the CNMI.

"All of us in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are horrified by the reported use of some Department of Public Safety officers to try to block service of a legal summons to appear in court and to facilitate the flight of the Attorney General from our islands. When those we rely on to uphold the law appear to be obstructing justice, we all fear for our safety and grieve for our Commonwealth," he said.

Sablan said "fortunately, there are individuals among us with the courage and determination to stand up for the rule of law. Their service protects us from those in power who believe they can rule our islands by force."

Doromal said it is reprehensible that Buckingham as highest-ranking law enforcement official in the CNMI "employed a Gestapo-like army of police officers and the DPS deputy commissioner in a failed attempt to avoid being served a summons and to assist him to leave the CNMI."

"What a blatant abuse of public funds and yet another example of CNMI-style in-your-face corruption in an ever-growing series of corrupt and illegal schemes committed by CNMI government officials," she said.

Sablan said as to the specific charges against Buckingham, he can only say that in the system of justice, "everyone is presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law."

"Mr. Buckingham deserves every opportunity to defend himself; and it is my hope that our Commonwealth will be stronger and safer once judgment has been rendered in this case," he said.

Delay of nurses' housing benefit enters 6th month

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Health Center nurses are expressing their frustration on management's apparent inaction on their housing benefit, which has been delayed for six months now.

A nurse who has been at the public hospital for the past 17 years said she is very disappointed on the continued delay of the benefit. She added that the delay has forced her as well as some of her co-nurses to move to smaller apartments to save on their monthly rentals.

When she was hired from the Philippines, the benefit was included in the compensation package that was offered to her.

Since her employment, she disclosed that her and her peers' salaries have not been adjusted. The housing allowance, she said, is their only consolation for many years.

Saipan Tribune learned that unpaid housing allowance for CHC staff entered its sixth month this August, or since March. The housing benefit, which is given only to off-island hires, is $600 for a single nurse, while those with families get $800.

Another affected employee, a nurse at CHC since 2003, disclosed that what's worse is that "we're kept in the dark" on the real status of the benefit.

The allowance comes in a separate check usually received during first week of each month. For several months now, no single memorandum or information has been relayed to affected staff on if and when they will get it, according to three other nurses interviewed Friday.

"We understand the financial situation of the [Commonwealth Healthcare] Corporation, but we're not asking for full payment for all these six months. They can do it little by little so it could help us. Honestly, some affected employees have already lost their privacy [because they've moved in with others] and many of us have reduced and cut almost everything [in our budget]," one of them said.

Affected employees admitted that with the uncertainty of the allowance, coupled with other challenges at the hospital, they are considering other options. "We're just hoping they will give us the straight answers because we're tired of waiting. If they wanted to stop it, please tell us…so we can make our plans too," the emotional employee shared.

The employee said that for months now, she could hardly send money to her family back home because she now needs to pay for her housing, utilities, and other expenses.

In a separate interview Friday, health corporation board chair Joaquin Torres said he will discuss the matter with CEO Juan N. Babauta, who is expected to be back last Saturday.

He admitted that the board had already recommended the scrapping of the housing benefit to the CEO due to the financial constraints of the hospital. However, he emphasized that whatever is owed by management will remain an obligation to be fulfilled by the corporation until funds are identified.

Torres said the board's recommendation is to stop the allowance effective Oct. 1, 2012, in time for the renewals of most employment contracts. The decision whether the housing allowance will be incorporated in the new compensation package to be negotiated by individual employee will all depend on the CEO, according to the chairman.

Torres is banking on the release of the $7-million loan from MPLT. "We're not ignoring it and we're honoring our obligation to them. It's just that we don't have the funding to pay them. The corporation's No. 1 priority is the payroll," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting

The Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will be conducting their monthly meeting on Aug. 14, 2012, at 10am at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office on Beach Road, Garapan. For more information contact Diane Gabaldon at 256-3320. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach set for Aug. 13-16

This is to inform all Veterans that Tina San Agustin, Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Senior Veteran's Service Representative from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be on Rota and Saipan for Veterans Outreach on Veterans Federal Benefits. She will also be entertaining your questions and assist you with your claims.

Date, time and place are as follows:

■ Rota: Monday, Aug. 13, 2012, 0830-1630 at the WIA Office

■ Saipan: Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012, 0900-1630
Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012. 0800-1630
Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012, 0800-1130
at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs, Building 1364, Capitol Hill

If you wish to make an appt or for further information, please contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/Veterans affairs at (670) 664-2650/59.

Marianas High School orientation schedule

Due to the implementation of new school policies and changes, Marianas High School is encouraging all parents, guardians, and students to attend these orientation sessions.

■ Aug. 8, 2012, 9am for incoming 12th graders
■ Aug. 9, 2012, 9am for incoming 11th graders
■ Aug. 10, 2012, 9am for incoming 10th graders
■ Aug. 23, 2012, 9am for incoming 9th graders, New and Transfer students (Please be prepared to get your picture taken for your school ID.)

Should you have any questions, please contact us at 237-3206. ***(PR)***

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Camacho dismisses case vs defendant accused of sexually abusing boy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has dismissed criminal charges against a man accused of sexually abusing a minor boy on multiple occasions, after finding that there is no substantial likelihood that the defendant will regain his competency to stand trial within 90 days.

In his ruling issued on Friday, Camacho ordered the unconditional release of defendant Wilfredo A. Imperial Jr.

Camacho, however, pointed out that nothing in his order prohibits the CNMI government from filing any available civil commitment proceedings against the 30-year-old Imperial.

"Defendant's history and present status demonstrate that he is not getting "better," in terms of his competency to stand trial, nor is he likely to get better within the statutory period of time," the judge said.

Camacho made the determination based on testimony at the Aug. 1, 2002 hearing, two clinical reports, and one forensic report.

Camacho said the recent report and testimony of Dr. Reinhold Meister, who was appointed by the court to conduct a competency evaluation on Imperial, reflect his expert opinion that the defendant's chance of improving within 90 days is "remote and highly unlikely."

The judge said he relies on Meister's opinion.

Camacho said Imperial continues to exhibit poor insight and that his judgment continues to lack the type of analytical thought process or "excessive functioning" required for competency.

Camacho said Meister's report indicates that defendant's prognosis remains "stable, poor, and chronic."

Camacho said Dr. Jeremy Richards, the attending psychiatrist for Imperial's 14-day treatment, offered a clinical opinion which also reflects that defendant has a poor prognosis.

Richard's testimony, the judge noted, also indicates that defendant has little chance of regaining competency.

Richard testified that he would not expect to see improvement in defendant within 90 days. He described defendant's condition as "long-term."

In November 2011, the Office of the Attorney General charged Imperial with various crimes related to his alleged sexual abuse of a then 13-year-old boy.

In December 2011, defendant's counsel, chief public defender Adam C. Hardwicke, requested that defendant undergo a competency evaluation.

The court appointed Meister to conduct a competency evaluation.

On May 15, 2012, the court began a hearing to determine competency which ended on May 24.

On June 13, 2012, Camacho issued a decision finding Imperial presently incompetent to stand trial. He ordered a 14-day commitment, testing, and treatment to determine defendant's likelihood of regaining competency.

On July 2, 2012, Imperial was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center for commitment. Richards served as the defendant's attending physician during his stay at CHC and supervised his treatment.

On July 16, 2012, the defendant was transported back to the Department of Corrections.

On July 30, 2012, Meister conducted another competency evaluation focused on the issue of whether Imperial's mental state had changed, and whether he was likely to become competent with continued treatment.

On Aug. 1, 2012, Richards and Meister testified regarding defendant's condition and their respective reports.

Imperial, through counsel, then moved the court to dismiss the charges and release him.

In his ruling on Friday, Camacho granted the motion after finding the testimony and reports of the doctors as credible.

First NMC placement test scheduled for Aug. 7

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting its first placement test on the Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012. NMC's English and math placement tests are scheduled as follows:

English Placement Test Schedule

- Aug. 7, 9, 14, 16 9am-6pm Building M
- Aug. 8, 10, 13, 15, 17 9am-4pm Building M

Math Placement Test Schedule

- Aug. 14 10am-12pm Room A-9
  5pm-7pm Room A-9
- Aug. 15 10am-12pm Room A-9
- Aug. 16 10am-12pm Room A-9
  5pm-7pm Room A-9
- Aug. 17 10am-12pm Room A-9

New students are required to take the English and math placement tests before they register for courses for the Fall 2012 semester. After taking the placement tests, students can meet with their academic advisors, who will assist students complete registration forms and create class schedules.

There is a $25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 8:30am-4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Note that payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

Students who have a fee waiver must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test. Test takers must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the English placement test are strongly encouraged to contact the Language and Humanities Department (Building M) to schedule an appointment. There is also a sign-up sheet for the English placement test in Building M. "Walk-in" test takers will be accommodated based on seat availability. The average time to complete the English placement test is between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

For the math placement test calculators may be used. Note that test takers are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for those who have NOT taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

To schedule an appointment to take the English placement test or for more information, contact Jim Kline at 234-5498 Ext. 2017, Tom Colton at Ext. 2009, or Elsie Skang-Ngewakl at Ext. 2014. Also for more information or inquiries about the math placement test, contact the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Dept. at 234-5498 ext. 1202 or 1212.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Fall 2012 semester, visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N, Room 3 at the NMC As Terlaje campus, or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1540, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-021

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DRINKING WATER & CUBE ICE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of bottled drinking water & cube ice for CUC Administration and Operation Division Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-021, Supply & Delivery of Drinking Water & Cube Ice", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on August 9, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 23, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-LB-100

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: AUGUST 30, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FORTY (40) TABLETS FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY CONTACT MR. PATRICK SEMAN AT (670) 664-8954.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MELCHOR MENDIOLA
DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE BUREAU

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-022

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to supply fuel for CUC's light vehicle and heavy equipment on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-022, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicle & Heavy Equipment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on August 14, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 23, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES

RFP 12-01

SERVICES REQUIRED

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), a public trust of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requests proposals from interested firms to provide janitorial services for MPLT office located on 1222 Capital Hill Road, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Provide general janitorial services for the MPLT office. Interested parties can pick up the scope of work at the MPLT office or can be access at the website at www.mplt.gov.mp.

PACKAGES & SUBMITTAL DATE

Please submit letter of interest to include monthly rate to the attention of **Barbara Reyes**, Office Manager, Marianas Public Land Trust P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 P.M., Thursday, August 30, 2012.

Interested firms are welcome to conduct a survey of the site.

This public notice is also available on our website at www.mplt.gov.mp. Should you have any question or need additional information, please contact our office at 3224401/4402, Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Northern Mariana Islands Public School System (PSS) Foundation Meeting on Tuesday, August 07, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1) Call to Order
2) Roll Call
3) Adoption of Agenda
4) Adoption of Minutes
a) May 16, 2012 Meeting

II. Unfinished Business

III. New Business
1) Resolution to Open a Checking Account and Name of Bank
2) Resolution to Authorize Signatories to Sign Check
3) Resolution to Designate the Secretary as "Registered Agent"

IV. Miscellaneous Matters

V. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VI. Adjournment

District Court slaps 142-day jail term vs probationer

The federal court on Friday sentenced to 104 days in prison a probationer who violated several conditions of his probation.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona revoked the supervised release of defendant Francisco Nakatsukasa Basa.

Manglona gave Basa credit for the time he already served in jail.

Manglona ordered that upon release from imprisonment, the defendant will be placed on supervised release for 57 months.

The judge said upon Basa's release today, Monday, he is to immediately report to the Salvation Army Lighthouse Recovery Center in Guam for inpatient substance abuse treatment and testing.

Manglona said it is also ordered that Basa comply with all treatment and testing requirements, program and facility rules and regulations, and the instructions of the treatment staff while at the Salvation Army Lighthouse Recovery Center.

At the hearing, defense attorney F. Matthew Smith recommended that Basa be incarcerated up to today, Monday, when the Light House Program may take the defendant in.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton did not argue and stated that the document that they filed in court explained the essence of the U.S. government's position of sentencing in this matter.

According to the U.S. Probation, Basa failed to refrain from the unlawful use of a controlled substance on July 28, 2011; Oct. 3, 2011; Dec. 8, 2011; and Jan. 22, 2012.

The defendant allegedly failed to show for drug testing at four different dates in 2011 and eight other dates in 2012.

Basa also allegedly failed to participate in substance abuse treatment program at six different dates in 2011 and seven other dates in 2012.

Basa admitted to four violation charges.

In 2006, the federal court sentenced Basa to four years and six months in prison after being convicted of conspiracy to distribute 50 grams of "ice." He was placed on five years of supervised probation after serving the jail term.

In May 2010, Basa was arrested for choking and then punching his common-law wife in the face. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

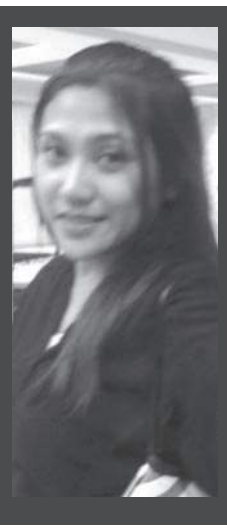
BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Glessie Ann Noriel who turned 16 years old last Aug. 4 with a birthday party at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Jane Madeloso who turned 17 years old last Aug. 4 with a birthday party at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Have a wonderful birthday to our dear friend Cheng Zingapan who is celebrating her special day today. We wish you all the happiness in life. Keep being healthy and more birthdays to come. Greetings from the staff and management of Sun Palace Hotel and Makeover Beauty Salon.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

WATER TASK FORCE
IFB12-GOV-087

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the Leak Detection and Repairs from Tekken St in Susupe to Orchid St. in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Contractor shall identify, report, and repairs leaks in the water distribution system, to include but not limited to mainline leaks, residential meter leaks, fire hydrants, mainline valve leaks, and other appurtenant parts of the distribution system. Contractor shall also report and repair or replace inoperable fire hydrant and valves. Contractor shall identify the models, make and part number or identification of any existing meters, hydrants or valves, which were repaired.
- Installation of valves, air relief valves, blow-off valves, fire hydrants and fittings.
- Contractor will, for each identified leak, submit a repair schedule and cost estimate for the repair including restoration of the repair sites (cushioning, backfilling/compaction and asphalting). Pavement restoration, predominantly along the road traffic, shall be expeditiously restored initially using lean concrete as basecourse. Compaction test must be submitted prior to paving.
- Contractor shall identify, report, and resolve areas of potential backflow within the water distribution system. Contractor, upon notification from WTF as forwarded from CUC, shall investigate complaints of low water pressure in the distribution system. This may indicate a substantial leak has occurred.
- Contractor will trace unrecorded service lines to their point of origin.
- Contractor shall identify, report, cut and cap abandoned lines and laterals serving vacant buildings or other facilities.
- Contractor shall provide a detailed daily report to WTF and CUC to include findings, cause of leak, steps taken to resolve the problem, materials used and type of testing performed.
- Contractor shall check all water customer service and shall report to WTF and CUC overflowing cisterns/tanks for CUC-Water Division enforcement.
- Contractor shall isolate the line subjected for repairs and shall take various pressure readings at different times before and after the repair. Contractor shall submit a pressure reading logs. Contractor shall ensure that all existing customers affected by line isolation are reconnected to the water system.
- Asphalt Road restoration.
- Repairs procedures shall be in compliance with the requirements of the CUC Water Division, DEQ, AWWA Standards, OSHA regulations and USDOT FHWA standards.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after July 9, 2012 at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 AM, on July 20, 2012, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.
All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 PM on July 19, 2012.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "IFB12-GOV-087". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 PM local time August 7, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 PM local time August 7, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 7, 2012, and must be received no later than 2:00 PM August 16, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 PM local time, August 16, 2012. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 PM local time on August 7, 2012.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, M.P. 96950 • Tel. 664-2576 • Fax. 664-2570

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is hereby announcing its intention to submit its Abbreviated State Plan for Fiscal Year 2013. In addition to the fourteen (14) assurances which the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are mandated to comply with, and the Program Integrity Assessment in order to receive the grant, we are also required to report on the progress, accomplishments, and problems that we have encountered within the last couple of years of the program. The LIHEAP Program generally provides cooling/utility/power assistance to eligible low-income households.

We are notifying affected individuals, specifically those who are qualified low-income, elderly, and/or disabled, other interested individuals, and the general public who may be interested in participating in the development of this plan to please contact Mr. George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor and Mrs. Gregoria O. Sablan or Mr. Frank Iglecias, the LIHEAP Staff at the DCCA LIHEAP's Office at telephone numbers 664-2568 or 664-2569. For more information and inquiry, please call the said telephone numbers, or visit our Office located at Capitol Hill House#1341.

Community meetings will be conducted on Rota, Tinian and Saipan as scheduled below. Any and all interested individuals are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU

I Dipåttamenton Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA), Progråman Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) ginen este ha anununsia I intension-ña na para u rinueba iyon-niha Abbreviated State Plan para I Fiscal Year 2013. Komu ma'aomenta hålum i katotsi (14) gi Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Marianas put para u ma'otdin para i kinimpli ni, yan I Pgram Integrity Assessment anai siña para u marisibi I salåppi' , ya manmadimånda han lokkui' para u maripot todu I adilåntu, kinemplidu yan prublema siha ni ma'ekspirensia gi halum I manma'pus na såkkan I prugråma. I LIHEAP na progråma heneråtmente ha pribininiyi (cooling/kåndet) na klasen ayudo para ayu siha na familia I man takpapa suetdon-niha.

In nutitisia ayu siha na petson I man inafefekta espesiåtmente para ayo I man kuålifikao na man åmko, yan/man inutit, yan pumalu siha na indibiduåt ni man interesao, yan I pupbliku heneråt komu man interesao man pattisiapao gi man plånun este na inadulånta para u ma'ågang si Siñot George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor, yan Siñora Gregoria O. Sablan, Siñot Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff, gi DCCA ofisinan gi este siha na numirun tilifon 664-2568 pat 664-2569.

Para u guaha siha inekungok publiku para ufan ma kondukta giya Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Todu eyu siha man interesao na petsona man masosohyu para u ma'atiende este siha na inekungok.

Para mås infotmasion pat finaisen, pot fabot ågang I tilifon siha ni ma'mensiona pat bisita I ofisinå-ta giya Capital Hill, Numiron I gima #1341.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP

Dipattamentool Lemelemil Sóóbw me Kko (Community me Cultural Affairs - DC&CA), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) sángi milleel nge ekke arongaar toulap igha ekke mángiiy bwe ebwe féérú seféliiy yaar State Plan reel ráágh ye 2013. E pwal aschuuschu ngáli milikkewe seigh me faawu (14) ikka re akkulééw ngáli Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands reel igha ebwe mmwelil bweibwogh selaapi, me kkemalul programma, nge e bwal allégh ngáli ghamam bwe aybwe fféér ripood reel meeta kka e ghatch, weires ikka e ghal yoor fitoowula ráágh mwir igha eyoorota progróóma yeel. Mille LIHEAP nge e ayoora alillis reel apatapat/dengkki me alillis ngaliir schookka eghi sossol abwossuur.

Aykke arongaar schookka re toolong llol alillis yeel ikka eghi sossol abwossuur, tuufey/ikka rese bwang, me ikka re mwuschal fengal me toulap ikka re tipali bwe rebwe toolong llol progrooma yeel bwe rebwe ffaingiir Sóumwár George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor, me Ilimwár Gregoria O. Sablan me/ngare Sóumwár Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff reel numurool tilifoon kka 664-2569 ngare 664-2568 me ngáre tooto llól Bwulasiyo iye elo Capitol Hill house #1341.

Ebwe yoor arongorong ngáliir toulap wóól Luuta, Tchúlúyól me Seipél. Aramas ye e tipáli nge rekke tingór ngáliir bwe rebwe tooto llól iyéélágh kkaal.

/S/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
Secretary, DCCA

Date: 08/01/2012

VENUE	SCHEDULED DATES	TIME
TINIAN-TINIAN GYMNASIUM	AUGUST 08, 2012	6:00 PM
ROTA-ROTA ROUNDHOUSE	AUGUST 24, 2012	6:00 PM
SAIPAN-MULTI PURPOSE CENTER	AUGUST 27, 2012	6:00 PM

Independent candidate Aquino seeks House seat

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Independent House candidate Daniel Aquino Jr., right, signs a document while filing his petition Friday at the Commonwealth Election Commission. With him is his wife Joann, second right, and supporters while election commission administrative officer Julita Villagomez looks on.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Independent candidate Daniel I. Aquino Jr. filed his candidacy at the Commonwealth Election Commission last Friday with the promise that he will bring change to the community and its people.

Aquino, who will run for House seat for precinct 2, said his decision to run in the Nov. 6 polls has the strong support of his family and supporters.

For the aspiring lawmaker, it is his educational background that sets him apart from his opponents for the House seat.

"There are currently six candidates running for precinct 2 and I am the only candidate who has a four-year college degree with a Bachelors of Science in Business Management. Aside from my college degree, I was a commissioned officer in the [U.S.] Army and graduated from the United States Army Engineering School in Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. I got out of the Army as a Captain of an Engineer Company," he said.

Aquino described himself as a humble and respectful person who does not tolerate corruption in government. "I do not have any fancy campaign platforms; instead I pledge my honesty, education, trustworthiness, sincerity, commitment, transparency, and hard work to find solutions that aims to improve your family's livelihood."

When asked about specific programs he wants to initiate for the community, Aquino cited the "Project Grrrl Power" which aims to mentor and teach basic life skills, character education, dance, and arts. Aquino said he and his wife Joann have been involved with the care and educational development of young children which resulted in the establishment of the said project. The couple owns and operates the nonprofit organization Little Darlings Early Childhood and Respite Care Inc. and LD Basic Center program.

"I decided to run for office because things have gone from bad to worse, and in some cases just plain impossible and we could do better. Look around you and ask yourself what has changed in the past 10 years… nothing! Our vote and the same choices of candidates and political parties over the past 10 years is why we are, where we are," he said. Throughout these years, Aquino said children either complained because there were no activities for them in the villages or they were not able to play basketball because some courts only had one functioning rim.

During his house-to-house visits in precinct 2, he revealed that residents are craving for new leadership. He said he wanted to help them, especially children, succeed in life by developing and implementing innovative, positive youth development programs in the precinct that aims to assist and mentor children to continue to thrive in this economy.

"I will use my education, military, and business experience to develop a business friendly economy by easing restrictions of doing business in the CNMI.By doing this, I want to encourage more residents to become business owners and entice new legitimate businesses to establish themselves in the CNMI," he said.

If elected, Aquino said he wants to stop political interference and excessive fees in order to promote business growth and job development for the people who are desperately seeking employment.

31 candidates, 16K voters so far for Nov. 6 polls

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirty-one individuals have so far filed their candidacies for this year's mid-term election with just five days to go before the Aug. 8 filing deadline, while registered voters are currently at over 16,000, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

As of yesterday, the election commission recorded 19 individuals who are seeking House seats in three islands.

They included Ignacio Cabrera, Eric Diaz, John Paul Sablan, Rafael Demapan, Mariano Fajardo, Ralph Yumul, Martin Sablan, Brian Torres, Edmund Villagomez, Felix Santos, Roman Benavente, Mariano Taitano, Christopher Leon Guerrero, Raymond Lizama, Anthony Benavente, Francisco Dela Cruz, Ramon Tebuteb, Stanley Torres, and Daniel Aquino.

There are 20 House seats up for grabs this election.

To date, four individuals are seeking positions at the Board of Education. They include Vic Cepeda, Tanya King, Dexter Apatang, and Janice Tenorio. There are two available seats for Saipan and one seat for Rota that are up for grabs this mid-term elections.

For the Senate, three have so far filed candidacies: Senate President Paul Manglona, Ana Teregeyo, and Ray Yumul. There are three open seats up for grabs for the Senate this mid-term elections.

For the U.S. delegate position, only independent candidate and incumbent Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan has formally filed his petition at the election commission. For the municipal council posts, incumbent chair Ramon Camacho, Gardner Barcinas, Prudencio Manglona, and Robert Ulloa have so far filed their candidacies to date. Seats available for municipal council total three while only one will be chosen for the delegate position.

Based on election commission records, there are a total of 16,114 registered voters in the Commonwealth as of July 18. Saipan posted 13,216 total registered voters while Tinian posted 1,391 registered voters and Rota has 1,507 registered voters.

For Saipan, election district 1 recorded 4,355 voters from the following areas: San Antonio, 811; San Vicente, 2,509; and Koblerville, 1,035.

For election district 2, registered voters totaled 1,323 which came from Chalan Kanoa and Susupe areas. For election district 3, the commission election posted 3,304 voters which came from Oleai and Garapan areas.

For election district 4, total registered voters is 1,728: Tanapag, 620; San Roque, 571; Capitol Hill, 409; and Northern Islands, 128.

For election district 5 which covers Kagman villages, total registered voters to date is 2,506.

For Tinian, there are 1,391 registered voters, while Rota posted 1,507 as of July 18.

According to election commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero, the agency is planning to do a weekly update on the voters' statistics which can be found in the agency's website.

In preparation for the elections on Nov. 6, he said the election commission will print 17,500 ballots including that for absentee voters.

Voters can register at the commission's office anytime during the year but not later than 60 days prior to an election. Deadline for filing of candidacy and initiatives for the ballots is set on Aug. 8.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 6, 2001

OPA bill tossed back to House
The proposed Commonwealth Auditing Amendments Act of 2001 has become the 12th Legislature's bouncing ball, as it heads back to the House of Representatives after being passed by the Senate on Thursday. This came about after the Senate passed House Bill 12-376 with a few more amendments and deletions, necessitating the measure's return to the Lower Chamber for approval. As passed by the Senate, the measure not only exempts the OPA from the ban on hiring nonresident workers but also allows the agency to grant salary scales beyond the ceiling allowed under the Commonwealth Code.

Local banks pressed to sign in with FDIC
All banking institutions in the Northern Marianas will be asked to secure membership with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, according to the Department of Commerce. The commerce department said it would actively encourage, if not require, licensed banking companies in the CNMI to get FDIC insurance. Of the nearly 10 licensed banking institutions in the Northern Marianas, only two—Bank of Saipan and City Trust—are without FDIC insurance. The government's move to entice companies operating full-banking services to secure membership with the FDIC is being actively pursued by the Office of the Banking Director of the commerce department.

Aug. 6, 2002

More brown tree snake sightings alarm DLNR
Beware of brown tree snakes. And if you see one, kill it. This was the message of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Tom Pangelinan to the public, as the number of brown tree snakes in the CNMI may be increasing. He confirmed at least 86 sightings of the snake in the Commonwealth for the last 10 years. Recent developments showed that there were recent sightings of brown tree snakes in Chalan Kanoa, As Teo and Capitol Hill. Just over a month ago, a brown tree snake was also spotted by a government employee near the Marpi landfill area, the DLNR said. Pangelinan, in a report submitted to the Senate, said the recent sightings indicate the migration of these snakes from the airport and seaports, as the reptiles are believed to have come from Guam.

MPLA authorizes release of $2.6M to MVA
The Marianas Public Lands Authority has disclosed that it would release in about a week's time the $2.6 million that is allocated for the Marianas Visitors Authority. This comes soon after acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente met with the members of the MPLA Board of Directors yesterday morning at the Office of the Governor. "We've been promised that we'll get the $2.6 million in about one week's time, which is great because not only will that money be available for some critical promotional activities that are happening presently but also it will help us with our cash flow problems," said Benavente.

Aug. 6, 2003

Power struggle shakes upper house
Senate floor leader Joaquin G. Adriano is pushing for the immediate holding of a special election on Tinian to quell moves among the minority bloc to position Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero as the chamber's next vice president. "The way the Senate is running, it would be best if we have the special election done in the fastest manner because, see, [Guerrero] is claiming the vice presidency. and we are missing one senator each from [Rota and Tinian. The two islands lack representation," said Adriano. If the Senate session scheduled for tomorrow pushes through and the minority senators insist on pushing for the vice-presidency of Guerrero, Adriano said the leadership senators will boycott the session until the minority bloc takes out Guerrero's bid for the post.

Juvenile delinquency rate at 10-year low
The number of juveniles arrested for offensive actions dropped in the month of July-the lowest in 10 years-with the first half of the calendar year totaling 126, the Division of Youth Services disclosed yesterday. The DYS-Juvenile Probation Unit said the drop in juvenile crimes represents success in terms of the implementation of various preventive and awareness programs. It added, however, that the drop may also be caused by the lack of personnel that could have slowed down the operations against delinquent juveniles. Statistics showed that only eight minors were taken into custody last month, down from 14 in June; 12 in May; 24 in April; 25 in March; 27 in February; and 24 in January.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF WASTEWATER CHARGES AND RATES

Pursuant to the Water Electric Charge & Wastewater Electric Charge tariff authorized by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") in its January 27, 2012 Order, the new Wastewater Electric Charge will be **$1.77** per 1,000 gallons, reduced from $1.86, effective **August 4, 2012**. The Commission enacted the Wastewater Electric Charge to "reimburse CUC for all power costs associated with the production, treatment and transportation of water and wastewater service."

	CHARGES & RATES
ESTIMATED WASTEWATER ELECTRIC CHARGE	
All Customer Classes -- Per 1,000 Gallons NOTE: Subject to revision based on changes to Electric rates	(Eff 08/04/12) $ 1.77
METERED/UNMETERED CUSTOMERS	
	(Eff 02/27/12)
Residential **Multi-Family**	
Monthly Service Fee	$ 9.69
Vol Rate/1,000 Gal - 6,000	1.00
6,001 Above	3.13
Commercial	
Monthly Service Fee	$ 9.24
Vol Rate/1,000 Gal 6,000	3.00
6,001 Above	3.13
CUC **Government** **Public School System**	
Vol Rate/1,000 Gal - Above	$ 68.00
NOTE: Unmetered and flat rates phased out upon completion of meter change-out program.	

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF WATER CHARGES AND RATES

Pursuant to the Water Electric Charge & Wastewater Electric Charge tariff authorized by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") in its January 27, 2012 Order, the new Water Electric Charge will be **$3.36** per 1,000 gallons, an increase from $3.05, effective **August 4, 2012**. The Commission enacted the Water Electric Charge to "reimburse CUC for all power costs associated with the production, treatment and transportation of water and wastewater service."

	CHARGES & RATES
ESTIMATED WATER ELECTRIC CHARGE	
All Customer Classes -- Per 1,000 Gallons NOTE: Subject to revision based on changes to Electric rates	(Eff 08/04/12) $ 3.36
METERED CUSTOMERS	
Monthly Service Fee	(Eff 02/27/12)
5/8" x 3/4"	$ 10.86
1"	12.67
1 1/2"	19.91
2"	25.34
3"	63.35
4"	99.55
6"	135.75
8"	199.10
10"	280.55
12"	362.00
Volume Rate Per 1,000 Gallons	
Residential & Commercial	
- 3,000	0.72
3,001 15,000	1.74
15,001 30,000	2.68
30,001 60,000	3.59
60,001 Above	4.49
Multi-Family	
- 3,000	2.95
3,001 15,000	2.95
15,001 30,000	2.95
30,001 60,000	2.95
60,001 Above	2.95
CUC	
Government - Above	54.30
Public School System - Above	44.30
UNMETERED CUSTOMERS -- FIXED CHARGE	
Residential	54.00
Multi-Family	54.00
Commercial	275.40
CUC	275.40
Government	275.40
Public School System	275.40
NOTE: Unmetered and flat rates phased out upon completion of meter change-out program.	

July 23, 2012

TO: LYDIA R. SASO and RYO SASO

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated August 24, 2006, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. H-221-3-6 (formerly Lot H-221-3, part of original H-221), situated in San Vicente Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,511 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2137/86, the original of which was registered on July 10, 1986, as Document No. 86-1389, at the Land Registry, Saipan

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: August 24, 2006; $17,523.00

(c) Amount due for principal: $571.24 as of June 1, 2012

(d) Amount due for interest: $4,009.92 as of June 1, 2012

(e) Daily accruing interest: $4.14

If the principal, interest, and late charges $4,581.16 as of June 1, 2012, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un Komple i kontratan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Agusto dia 24, 2006, ni afabobot i Real Estate Mortgage ma asegurao i tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) i deskripsion tano ni ma empeñen (mortgaged)"

Sitio Numeru H-221-3-6 (estaba Sito Numeru H-221-3, patte gi sitio numeru H-221), ni gaigi San Vicente Village, Saipan, Islas Marianas, San Kattan, ni ha konsiste un aria 1,511 quadrao metro, mas pat menus, mas partikulat ma diskribi gi Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2137/86, i orihinat ni ma rehistra gi Julio 10, 1986 komo Document No. 86-1389 gi Land Registry, Saipan.

(b) i kantida yan i fechan este na debi yan empepeña: Agusto dia 24, 2006; $17,523.00

(c) Kantida un debi para principat: $571.24 asta ki June 1, 2012

(d) Kantida un debi para interes: $4,009.92 asta ki June 1, 2012

(e) Interes kada dia: $4.14

Yangin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $4,581.16, asta ki Junio dia 1, 2012, yan i reasonable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe esta na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple i kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi i propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-na pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infotfotma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai ni henta information pot i dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe i katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission") Order of January 27, 2012, established a new Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause ("LEAC") tariff. Under the new LEAC tariff, if the Mean of Platts Singapore ("MOPS") monthly price of oil equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential--either higher or lower--in the average per gallon, and the Commission is not functional, then CUC shall change the LEAC rate to reflect the higher or lower price. The July 2012 average MOPS has increased from the prior month. Accordingly, the LEAC rate has increased from $0.26373 per kWh to 0.28168 per kWh, effective August 3, 2012.

CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS	MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGE (Eff 02/27/12)	RATES PER KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh) ELECTRIC NON-FUEL RATE OR BASE RATE (Eff 02/27/12)	LEAC RATE (Eff 08/03/12)	TOTAL RATE PER kWh
RESIDENTIAL	$ 7.69			
1. First 500 kWh (1 To 500)		$ 0.0220	$ 0.28168	$ 0.30368
2. Second 500 kWh (501 To 1,000)		0.0910	0.28168	0.37268
3. Next 1,000 kWh (1,001 To 2,000)		0.1180	0.28168	0.39968
4. All kWh After 2,000 (Over 2,000)		0.1740	0.28168	0.45568
RESIDENTIAL LIFELINE	$ 6.51			
1. First 500 kWh (1 To 500)		$ 0.0190	$ 0.28168	$ 0.30068
2. Second 500 kWh (501 To 1,000)		0.0910	0.28168	0.37268
3. Next 1,000 kWh (1,001 To 2,000)		0.1180	0.28168	0.39968
4. All kWh After 2,000 (Over 2,000)		0.1740	0.28168	0.45568
COMMERCIAL (All kWh Billed)	$ 10.53	$ 0.1180	$ 0.28168	$ 0.39968
GOVERNMENT (All kWh Billed)	$ 10.53	$ 0.1240	$ 0.28168	$ 0.40568
NON-CONFORMING LOAD (All kWh Billed)	$ 56.00	$ 0.2220	$ 0.28168	$ 0.50368
MUNICIPAL PUMPING (All kWh Billed)	$ 9.06	$ 0.1070	$ 0.28168	$ 0.38868

PUBLIC STREET LIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF *(Eff 02/27/12)*

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor street lighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.
Energy Charge: The energy charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable electric base rate and LEAC rate.
Fixture Charge: See below.

Fixture Type	Watts	kWh/month	Amount Per Lamp Per Month
1. Long Arm	250	101	$ 11.67
2. Short Arm	175	71	$ 8.33
3. LED	140	57	$ 10.83

PREVIOUS LEAC RATES

JUNE 2010 - JANUARY 12, 2011	$ 0.24446	JANUARY 28, 2012 - APRIL 8, 2012	$ 0.30550
JANUARY 13, 2011 - APRIL 15, 2011	$ 0.28125	APRIL 9, 2012 - JUNE 4, 2012	$ 0.32910
APRIL 16, 2011 - NOVEMBER 19, 2011	$ 0.34426	JUNE 5, 2012 - JULY 5, 2012	$ 0.29569
NOVEMBER 20, 2011 - JANUARY 27, 2012	$ 0.30791	JULY 6, 2012 - AUGUST 2, 2012	$ 0.26373

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Colombian cocaine contradictions

Colombia's cocaine production fell by nearly 25 percent in 2011 from the previous year, and was down by more than 70 percent since 2001, according to the White House. A report released this week by the Office of National Drug Control Policy suggests that the Andean country once known as the largest producer of cocaine has scored a remarkable victory. That's great news, if indeed the latest estimates are accurate.

But the report is at odds with a United Nations survey released last week that concluded that Colombia's cocaine production remains virtually unchanged, dropping by a mere 1 percent since 2010. That's a significant and troubling discrepancy. The United States and the U.N. are the only two sources for cocaine production estimates.

Whose numbers are accurate? U.S. officials suggest the conflicting estimates reflect different reporting techniques. While both use satellite imagery as well as on-the-ground monitoring and seizures of cocaine, the U.S. says it uses higher resolution satellite images than the U.N. and therefore has a more accurate assessment of cocaine production. American officials also say the U.N. is not taking into account the fact that new coca crops are yielding less of the raw material for cocaine. On the other hand, questions have been raised about the fact that the U.S. is estimating that 83,000 hectares were used to cultivate coca in 2011, far more than the United Nation's estimate of 64,000 hectares. Yet the U.S. report finds that more land is yielding less cocaine.

The U.S. report also doesn't explain why Colombia's neighbors aren't sharing in its success. Output is up in both Peru and Bolivia, which are now the world's top two cocaine producers. That's hardly a victory, and more likely an example of what experts refer to as the balloon effect: Squeeze a balloon in one place and it will expand in another. The Obama administration insists that the uptick in those two countries is not enough to offset the drop in Colombia's cocaine production. Meanwhile, drug violence continues unabated in Mexico and Central America, as South American cocaine travels north.

No one disputes that cocaine production is down in Colombia from a decade ago. Both the U.N. and the U.S. reports indicate a decrease of more than 50% since 2001. This week's numbers are encouraging. But we'd like to see a more thorough explanation of how they were compiled to guide U.S. counter-narcotics policy in the future.

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I MAY NOT AGREE WITH WHAT YOU SAY, BUT I'LL DEFEND TO THE DEATH YOUR RIGHT TO SAY IT.
GAYS for the 1ST AMENDMENT
I MAY NOT AGREE WITH YOUR LIFESTYLE AND I'LL DEFEND TO THE DEATH MY RIGHT NOT TO ACCEPT IT.
Chick-fil-A

The Age of Entitlement

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

In reading history, we learn that each period becomes known by a particular impression that age left behind. For example to name just a few, we have the Age of Enlightment, the Renaissance, The Reconstruction Era, The Gilded Age, and The Progressive Era. I believe that our period of history will be known as the Age of Personal Entitlement.

Simply defined an entitlement is a guarantee of access to benefits based on established rights or by legislation. Typically, entitlements are laws based on concepts of principles which are themselves based on social equality or enfranchisement. In a casual sense the term entitlement refers to a notion or belief that one (or oneself) is deserving of some particular reward or benefit for whatever reason. We deserve it and want it!

As usual my purpose is not to criticize what we are doing but to make us think carefully about our current attitude towards entitlements. Is it a healthy one or will it slowly destroy us?

Let's examine a few of them. Of course, these are my personal viewpoints and perhaps you may not agree. How many local people—Chamorro and Carolinians—have paid for the land on which their houses are built? How did Koblerville and Kagman come about? Isn't this an entitlement? Yet despite the many years I have lived here, I have had to pay for my land and at best could only lease it for a period time. If I am incorrect, please correct me.

Government employment seems to be an entitlement in which the vast majority of locals feel they have a right. And of course our politians play it to the hilt. Vote for me and I will get you a government job. Wow!

Yes, there is a sprinkling of a few non-locals. But how many of the locals employed are truly competent and industrious? Note that the austerity period will be wiped out in a few weeks. How this will be done is a mystery to me when several other agencies are suffering financially. But then election time is only a few months away. But what about non-government employees? What is their entitlement?

Each month our food stamp recipients continue to grow which currently total about 11,000 to 12,000 with a cost of about $1,000,000 per month. Yet we have over 12,000 non-resident workers on island doing work which many of us could do. How is it that so many food stamp recipients settle for only a few hundred dollars a month when if they worked a full week they would receive at least $808 per month? In September the minimum wage will rise to $5.55 per hour or $888 or $888 month. Will this encourage more people to seek employment?

Even though we have been given a time limit to train a local force we still drag our feet screaming for an extension of that time. It is not that extra time is needed to train; our mental attitude towards work itself must change. If that doesn't happen, even a 100 years extension will not be enough. The vast majority of the work to be learned requires about 60 to 90 days of training. Of course, higher skills will require more time, but that is rare. The specialists can always come from the United States when we decide to pay them a decent wage.

Recently a splendid apartment building was built in Chalan Kanoa reserved for low income people. I don't know how many people reside there but it is available for the select few. If it were marketed to the general public, the rental would easily be at least $1,000 per month. But the rent is almost half. Check it out. It has all the latest amenities. Most of us wouldn't mind living there, but we are over-overqualified.

A lot of entitlements are given to us by the United States. And as we know the United States is fast losing its superiority. It has overspent itself to over $7 trillion and cannot stop the addiction. Look at what has happened to Medicaid. It is a good thing but has been abused until is no longer affordable by the government.

The plague called entitlements is sweeping across the United States and causing major problems. It is estimated that about 50 percent of the American people under 20 years of age at one time or another will use food stamps. Years ago about 1 percent of men doing hard labor complained of back problems and received government financial assistance because of inability to work. Today that figure of work disability is over 5 percent of the workforce. Yes, entitlements are great but additive!

Many thinking citizens feel that we are on the same path that led to the downfall for the old Roman Empire of the Caesars (and many subsequent empires also). The Romans came to the belief that every one of them had earned the right to a good life, as this was the undisputed entitlement of those who dominated the world.

They were asleep at the wheel when their poor neighbors conquered them. Entitlement is a curse that must be removed before it becomes our cancer. The word "greed" is repeatedly used next to social entitlement. I desire it and I want it no matter what!

The real entitlements I learned while in school were about the pursuit of happiness and the pursuit of liberty. Little was ever mentioned about entitlements concerning money. In fact the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is generally agreed to be the foundation of international human rights law. Adopted in

See ENTITLEMENT on Next Page

Moer Duga, Man Dui, and Mo He

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

We launched a 1500-km rail trail from Mukden (Shenyang, Laioning) to Manzhouli (Hulunbeier, Inner Mongolia) but the ecological interest that undergird our tour trek extended to places north of Hailar with names like Moer Duga, Man Dui and Mo He. This is real Mongolian territory from where Genghis Khan's ancestry purportedly originated. Rail service also does not cover the route we have taken, thus, the experience on inter-town buses in dirt roads is a new experience.

We have been commenting on the awesome grassland and the wetlands, and the alarming rate of industrialization in the region that is already showing strain on the ecological equilibrium. The 3M of our title brought us to rivers and forests in a great mountain range.

It is difficult for CNMI residents to visually re-experience rivers unless one has been off island to actually dip one's toes to meandering fresh waterways, (e.g., the mighty Chiang Jiang, Yangtse, and the Huang He, Yellow River). The closest we have of one is the Talofofo stream on island.

Micronesia is home to island folks, and saved for land-locked Chamorros, the Refalawasch relish the adventure and challenge of the open sea. Manchuria, which normally covers the provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin, and Liaoning, was occupied during the Russian incursion and the Japanese annexation, in Manzhouli for the Russians, and Hailar for the Japanese (they had a huge military stronghold in Hulunbeier). The aboriginal ancestors of the Manchus florished in wild rivers and huge tracts of forests of the Great and Lower Khingan (aka, Xin'an) Range, while their Mongolian cousins wandered through the open expanse of the grasslands.

I dabbled for half a decade in the work of community development within the context of natural resource management in the watershed while serving local villages in the Visayas in the Philippines.

Then, there was dismay in the vicious cycle of the effluents from agricultural fields, particularly from induced flowering of mango trees (also pesticides and insecticides), singly flowing downhill into streams and rivers joining in the nearshore and killing coral reefs that support marine life, which sustains the small and medium size fishes.

Fishing diminished when the bigger deep sea fish no longer came close to shore to feed on the smaller fish. This induced the fishers to cut down the mangroves for commercial use particularly in making charcoal, which aggravated the destruction of the habitat of the near shore fish. The over-fished grounds and additional population resulted in poverty. Near shore fishers then moved to the upland to cut timber and open forests for new agriculture. The first crop is usually good because of the rich topsoil but on the third crop, the soil nutrients depleted, erosion occurs which silts the rivers and the near shore, and the whole watershed suffered.

The Philippines since WWII decimated 20 million hectares of virgin forests, and after the rapacious policy of the Marcos regime in cutting down timber for export to meet trade deficits, added another negative to the vicious watershed cycle. The knowledgeable among the natural resource managers in training sessions I led could not help but down their sorrows on the brew for the crisis was just too overwhelming to meet.

Thus, it came as a relief to travel through miles and miles of pristine forest stand in the northern part of Inner Mongolia. Of particular delight was a stop in the lumber town of Man Dui (the name either proclaims that the Menggu came to settle, or where they came from) where a hyper active mother and her university son tandem, a political science teacher in a summer bicycle trek from Hunan, and this English speaking dude, were picked up by the director of the local natural resource museum to a three-floor exhibit of the flora and fauna in the region.

The displays exhibit stuffed animals of field rodents, colorful birds, wild cats with their precious furs, all kinds and sizes of deer, including the ones that seemed like a cross between a deer and a donkey, as well as one with a horse, river fishes, and a roomful display of butterflies. This latter, the hu die (pronounced "who dee yeh") is the symbol of dreaming in Chinese mythology. The forest dream is alive and well in the range.

Amazing by itself, more so in terms of its wide geographical coverage, the forest stands are impressive in that the Japanese cleared the area for agriculture before WWII, and was razed by a wild fire in '87, has since become totally reforested!

We learned earlier that the Japanese occupied islands of Northern Marianas were cleared for sugar plantations before WWII, and after liberation, Hawaii business determined that the Marianas should not return to its previous productivity so they got the U.S. Navy to broadcast the fast growing tangan-tangan seeds, the current unsightly foliage, at least, on Saipan.

The museum exhibit was very helpful when we later drove through a section of the forest the whole afternoon. In site after site are built walkways suited to the forest (with trees allowed to grow in the middle of timbered walkway) where the local tourist can admire the natural wealth it has in its national patrimony. This is one area where the Zhongguo government is doing something right, though the building frenzy in tourist destinations of log cabins to accommodate visitors is alarming.

For now, we were blessed to view Mother Nature in its glory, and one hopes that the privilege will last awhile. And for a thought, might the del Rosario and Olopai households on the leeward side of Mt. Tapochau revive Saipan's forest?

Halom Pagyun Diskuidu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Gi halom didog na pagyun chinatsaga, mañeha ensegidas i man-sabiun hegsu' i Deni ya sige mata'lun mañgañgas, kulan guaka, i problema siha ni hagas ma-upus.

Sige i chetnot segne umadit. Siha yan siha man-a'apunta kalulot kulan man-baban famaguon. Inkabukau i tanu' ni taya' salape 'nai gi mismu tiempu sige ha' ma-umenta i obligasion, diariu.

Estague' na mattiru finañagon sensian konsentidot gi man-sustansiau siha na asuntun linahyan deste 1978 na sakan. Megai koble guihe na tiempu. Duru i gipot. Haye para u lini'e' i kimason atuf guma' 'nai duru i chalistun gi pisu?

Gi sigiente dia ta repara na hokog fiñkasta. Ni un granun hinegsa' gaige gi satten. Sige ta rikonose kau guaha aksidiente pinilo'ta gi fina' kauhau 'sino apusientu. Ni un' sientimos guaha sa' kosus.

Man-ñgaha' hit hulu' gi lañget ta konsidedera i dispetdisiu siha gi fiñkas familia. Era ta banidosuye i asuntu kulan mohon iyota i bañku lau komun sanhiyoñg ha' guinahata.

Mauleg na intension

Dañkulun gupot i republican gi 1979 'nai ma-apprueba i ma-disapprueba na programan man-retirau ni gobietnu. Sumen mauleg na intension lau ni unu humusga kau ma'ug na programa gi karera mona.

Trenta'i dos años dispues anog na tai fondu, brok (broke) ya mas ha' gi ti satbayun i asuntu ke haf' gaige gi hilu' lamasa.

Mampos man-atotgante hit gi asuntu ni numesessita ininan dipotsihe professionat na petjsona gi bandan fainansiat yan programan retirau. Yangin haye duda, pues bai' repite:

Broke i programan man-retirau gi dos años na tiempu. Estague produktun man-sabiu gi 1979 na membron lehislatura. Ti baba lau sumen appenas kabales na hinisga yan inestudia.

■■■

Diskuidun areglamientu

Areglu (policies) gi maseha manu na tanu' dumetetmimina haf' para kinalamteña pot para u mueba ya u prebeniye tautauña prosperu na modun lina'la'. Este na kinalamten libianu yangin umagu'ot kanai i tautau tanu yan kometsianten ginen hiyoñg ya dumaña gi pinetsigen adelantun todus.

Gi pa'gugu ha', guaha siha areglu guine ni mantailaye para i manatuñgo'ta. Pot este na rason na man-hanau tatte gi tanu' niha gi alacha sa' hokog appottunidat mamatinas ganansia para i bisnis niha. Kara ratu man-trompunasu nuebu na tax yan apas siha gi halom mattirun guaguan gaston utilidat.

Ha lachaiyu' esperansa este siha na diskuidutu ya hu konsidedera seriosiamente haf' mauleg para bai' chogue pot para ta tulaika fuetsau i sumen fatsu na maña yan disposision republican gi Hegsu' I Deni. Dalai 'ste na diskuidu! Lau gaige ennau na puddet giya hamyu ni botadot.

■■■

Taya sensian yine'ase'

Man-pausa mampos gi asuntun linahyan. Buente mampos fresku i mañglu' ya nina' fan mahetog gigat titanos niha. Kulan mohon todu mauleg i kinalamten tautau gi señgsoñg siha. Guiya este na soñgsuñg 'nai hagas man-hita manohge, apaga' pot apaga'. Man-malefa ni nesessidat publiku sa' manguaguan sueddon niha pagu.

Lau ai na a'gañg offresimientu para uma-adelanta ha'anen i publiku. Hu demimoria finu' niha esta pa'gu na tiempu deste siete años malofan. Dañkulu na diskuidu i ma-hambentuye fuetsan politika ya machanda gi un' banda i futuron i linahyan. Ayu ha' maprekukura i para u fan mandispone publikamente. U fagpu' este na bisiu gi Nobiembre pa'gu na sakan.

Taya ' esta kampu para dinage. Dispues, yangin para un' atrebi hau malagu, lamegai para bai faisen hau pot planumu. Yangin i ineppemu mampos na'tatah, pues maulegña un' rehistra hau gi Northern Marianas College ya un eyag mas ginen dichu leksion ni debi un' tuñgu'. Muñga na estake humalom hau 'nai ta sosoda' tai balimu. De dios gai ma'ase' nu hagu mismu!

■■■

Gi finu' un' kanta: Gi tiempomu, bibu hau kulan makinan manlagse. 'Nai todu matgan pilun papamu, kulan hau i figun manog ume'ensinahyan gi papa' sin gi kantun komun sanhiyuñg. De dios mihu!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Missing the point

The *Variety*'s article of Aug. 3, 2012, "Bond to Cost NMI $30 Million a Year," seems to miss the point of pension obligation bonds (POBs) entirely.

In the article, the *Variety* quotes Maggie Ralbovsky, who is not a policymaker, as advocating against issuing POBs since the interest cost, according to her, would be $30 million per year, and since the fund might incur "negative arbitrage" (earning less return than paid to bondholders), while ignoring entirely the purpose of POBs.

The purpose of POBs is to shore up the otherwise bankrupt NMI Retirement Fund, which the CNMI consistently has been unable to fund since the 1990s, even in the face of a court order. POBs are the ONLY viable means of accomplishing this objective today.

While it is true that, assuming a $300 million issuance and a 10 percent interest rate (which may or may not be the actual rate the CNMI would pay), interest would be $30 million in the first year, this amount would decline as bonds are paid down annually.

More importantly, this ignores the growing unfunded obligation of the NMI Retirement Fund, which has grown significantly MORE than $30 million per year over the last several years. This is a debt of CNMI just as surely as the POBs would be. POBs serve the dual benefits of both replenishing the NMI Retirement Fund immediately and converting the debt to bonds, which the CNMI cannot avoid paying as it has its obligations to the NMI Retirement Fund.

The recent bankruptcy filing of the NMI Retirement Fund and the prediction that funds will be depleted by 2015 emphasize the need to address this with urgency and make the moral and business common sense choice by funding a legal debt of the CNMI, ensuring retirement benefits owed to retirees and keeping the money circulating in our economy, which we surely need. Please join me in supporting Initiative 17-5.

Ivan A. Blanco
Capitol Hill

ENTITLEMENT

From Page 10

1948, the UDHR has inspired a rich body of legally binding international human rights treaties.

As we daily watch the violence being played out in the world, it is the people's desire to implement such human rights or entitlements. But we in the Western World are far beyond those poor people who are still struggling for mere basic human rights. We are imbued with a feeling of entitlements which are slowly beginning to destroy us.

I could go on with this discussion and never arrive at a meeting of the minds because we feel we are entitled to whatever we get. After all, others are doing it so why not me too. As long as we continue to listen to and accept the song that all political candidates sing: "You vote for me (or with me), I'll continue to give you things for free."

Entitlements offer us instant gratification, but cause lasting damage, like overeating causes obesity with all its illnesses. I know we all have our own opinion on this subject but I hope I got you thinking about it. Don't be shocked when the roof caves in. As all problems are created by people, they have to be solved by people. But then isn't this the story of history—the ups and downs of its people? That's why it is called his-story.

Our great nation started hundreds of years ago with 'Freedom" as our national buzzword. I don't see much true Freedom today…do you? It has been replaced with the latest buzzword "entitlements" and can be bought and sold for a few votes.

Thank you for reading as far as you have. When we reach out for our next entitlement, remember we bought it. But despite it all, keep SMILING! Have a great week!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

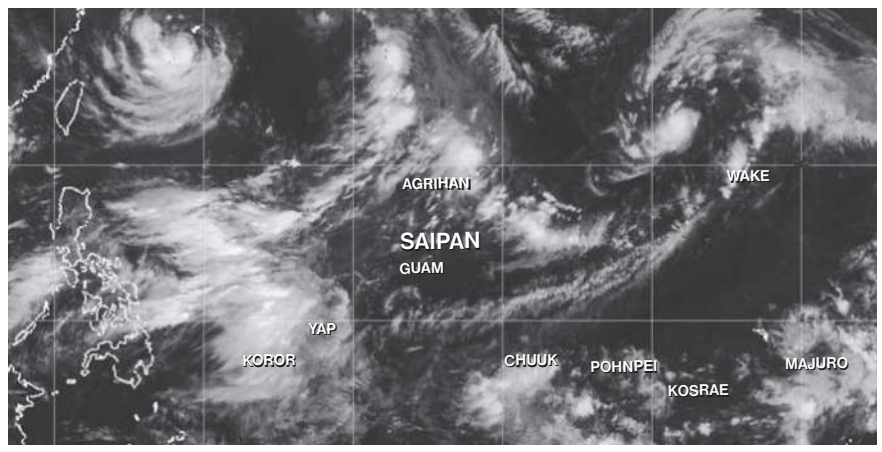
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼50
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼74
London	Showers	▲67	▼56
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲56	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲85	▼75
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲89	▼77
Paris	Showers	▲73	▼56
Pusan	Windy	▲86	▼79
Rome	Sunny	▲94	▼71
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼62
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼54
Seoul	Sunny	▲91	▼73
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲80	▼74
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼79

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Haikui (12W) is centered just south of Okinawa. A monsoon trough extends from Haikui to 19N148E and continues to Tropical Depression 13W located near 23N162E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough can be found between 20N and 25N from 140E to 150E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms associated with 13W are located between 21N and 25N from 158E to 162E. Low-level convergence south of Tropical Depression 13W is producing a band of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 120 miles of a line that extends from 18N150E to 16N155E to 17N163E to 23N167E. See bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW for Haikui and for tropical depression 13W look for information under WTPN31 PGTW and the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Low-level convergence is producing a large area of clouds and showers east of Tropical Disturbance 13W between 21N and 25N from 168E to 180. Low-level convergence south of the monsoon trough is generating a large area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 5N and 19N from 130E to 140E. This area includes Palau and Yap. A surface trough extends from near Chuuk at 9N150E to a weak circulation located near 5N157E then continues east to 5N170E to 10N180. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough and circulation can be found south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 7N from 150E to 161E. Another area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough is located over the Marshalls between 4N and 10N from 170E to 176E and between 5N and 14N from 176E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:05 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
11:46 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:30 PM	9:19 AM
Tuesday	10:09 PM	10:09 AM
Wednesday	10:50 PM	10:58 AM
Thursday	11:32 PM	11:47 AM
Friday		12:37 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Economy generates 163K jobs in sign of resilience

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy generated jobs last month at the fastest pace since February, a sign it is resilient enough to pull out of a mid-year slump and grow modestly even as the rest of the world slows down

The 163,000 jobs employers added in July ended three months of weak hiring. But the surprising gains weren't enough to drive down the unemployment rate, which ticked up to 8.3 percent last month from 8.2 percent in June—the 42nd straight month the jobless rate has exceeded 8 percent. The United States remains stuck with the weakest economic recovery since World War II.

The latest job numbers, released Friday by the Labor Department, provided fodder both for President Barack Obama, who highlighted improved hiring in the private sector, and Republican challenger Mitt Romney, who pointed toward higher unemployment.

"It's not especially weak, but it's not especially strong," said Scott Brown, chief economist at the investment firm Raymond James.

Investors focused on the positive. The Dow Jones industrials surged 217 points. Three more monthly jobs reports will come out before Election Day, including the one for October on Friday, Nov. 2, just four days before Americans vote.

No modern president has faced re-election when unemployment was so high. President Jimmy Carter was bounced from office in November 1980 when unemployment was 7.5 percent.

In remarks at the White House, Obama said the private sector has added 4.5 million jobs in the past 29 months. But he acknowledged there still are too many people out of work. "We've got more work to do on their behalf," he said.

Romney focused on the increase in the unemployment rate, as did other Republicans. "Middle-class Americans deserve better, and I believe America can do better," he said in a statement.

The economy is still struggling more than three years after the Great Recession officially ended in June 2009. The collapse of the housing market and the financial crisis that followed froze credit, destroyed trillions of dollars in household wealth and brought home construction to a halt. Consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic output, remains weak as Americans pay down debts and save more. From April through June this year, the economy expanded at a listless 1.5 percent annual pace, a slowdown from the January-March pace of 2 percent.

The job market got off to a strong start in 2012. Employers added an average 226,000 a month from January through March.

But the hiring spree was caused partly by an unseasonably warm winter that allowed construction companies and other firms to hire earlier in the year than usual, effectively stealing jobs from the spring. The payback showed up as weak hiring—an average 73,000 a month—from April through June.

AP

In this Aug. 2, 2012 photo, ironworker Stephen MacGray cuts a steel brace at the World Trade Center construction site, in New York. U.S. employers added 163,000 jobs in July, a hopeful sign after three months of sluggish hiring.

Russia mogul under pressure wants to sell assets

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian tycoon whose holdings include a leading investigative newspaper critical of the Kremlin said Friday that he wants to sell his Russian assets because of pressure from state security services.

Alexander Lebedev, worth $1.1 billion according to Forbes magazine, said the main KGB successor agency has targeted him with a series of investigations and inspections to push him out of business.

"For the past three years my business has been deliberately and continuously destroyed by Division K of the Federal Security Service's economic security department," Lebedev said on his blog. "Haunting and pressure has targeted not only me and workers of my companies, but my family members as well."

He said the main reason behind the Russian Federal Security Service's pressure on him was corruption investigations by the Novaya Gazeta he has financed, alleging that some of its officers were involved in corruption.

Lebedev and former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev own a 49 percent stake in the newspaper, while the remaining shares are controlled by Novaya's staffers. Lebedev also owns two newspapers in Britain, the Independent and the Evening Standard.

The Novaya Gazeta's relentless criticism of the Kremlin and its investigations into official corruption have put many of its journalists under fire. Four of its reporters have been killed since 2000, including Anna Politkovskaya, a fierce critic of the Kremlin and its policies in Chechnya who was gunned down in the elevator of her Moscow apartment building in 2006. Others have been harassed and attacked.

Lebedev said on Ekho Moskvy radio that he may hand over some of his assets to Novaya so that the newspaper may continue operation, because he no longer has no cash to keep funding it.

Lebedev has also supported Alexei Navalny, a charismatic anti-corruption crusader and blogger who was a key driving force against massive protests in the past winter against Vladimir Putin's rule. Earlier this week, Navalny has been charged with theft amid a widening crackdown on dissent that followed Putin's re-election to a third term in March. He may face 10 years in prison if convicted.

Lebedev, a KGB veteran like Putin, has avoided blaming the president for his woes. He said that security officers targeted him because he was the "main sponsor of the opposition," but dismissed that claim as "utter rubbish." He added, however, that he had expected the Kremlin to intervene to stop attacks on him.

Lebedev has made his money in the banking industry and owns the National Reserve Bank. He also has a stake in Russian flag carrier Aeroflot and owns Red Wings airline and other assets.

Southwest says computer glitch caused ticket woes

DALLAS (AP)—Southwest Airlines' attempt to thank its Facebook friends with a half-price ticket sale backfired when customers were inadvertently billed multiple times for a single flight—they're not feeling the "luv."

"No, it wasn't a hack, it was just a technology glitch in our system that caused that," duplicate bookings and billings to customers' debit and credit cards, Ashley Dillon, a Southwest spokeswoman said Saturday.

The company became aware of the problem around 5 p.m. Friday, she said, when they experienced website slowdowns and saw that customers were having to repeatedly refresh pages to take advantage of the airlines' one-day "luv2like" promotion.

The special sale designed to celebrate Southwest's reaching the three million mark in Facebook fans was supposed to give customers who booked flights on Friday a 50 percent discount on certain fares.

Instead, hundreds of frustrated would-be fliers wound up posting stories on Facebook about how their credit and debit cards were being repeatedly charged, in some cases 20 or more times for a single flight. They tweeted and blogged about the related financial hassles, which ranged from drained checking accounts and bounced checks to overdrawn credit limits and canceled bank cards.

AP

In this Feb. 9, 2012 file photo, a Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 waits to take off at Chicago's Midway Airport as another lands.

Several complained of having to wait hours on the telephone when they called to speak to customer service representatives Friday and Saturday.

Suzanne Worrell, 37, of Virginia Beach said she was just trying to fly down to Georgia to see her dad on a $69.60 ticket but was charged 20 times.

She clicked "purchase the ticket" and Southwest's website froze so she wasn't sure if it went through. Since she didn't get a verifying email, Worrell said she went to her credit card's website and that's when she noticed repeated charges piling up.

The airline's 800-number was busy and she said its website made no mention of the mix-up or suggestions about what to do late Friday, but when she got on Facebook she learned she was not alone.

"They've charged over $1,400 now for a $69 ticket," Worrell said. "Initially I was sympathetic. I get it. Stuff happens. Make it better."

Her attitude changed after finally speaking to a Southwest representative on Saturday. She said she was told it will take 8 to 10 days before she can get her money back.

"Now I'm just mad," Worrell said, worrying about the penalties and interest fees she'll be hit with because the charges knocked her over her spending limit.

On the upside, she said, if it's not resolved, her 20-month-old son is less likely to annoy fellow passengers because mother and child will have a large section on the plane to themselves.

"Essentially I have 20 seats on one flight," she said. "It's just crazy."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US Bank ATMs back online after 2-hour power outage

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—U.S. Bancorp says service has been restored at its 8,000 automatic teller machines across the nation following a two-hour outage. The owner of Minneapolis-based U.S. Bank says a power failure in Oregon led to ATM outages Saturday between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. EDT. Bank spokesman Tom Joyce says the problems were sporadic and power was restored in geographic blocks over time. He says not all 8,000 machines were down for the entire two hours.

Oil surges 5 percent on strong jobs growth

NEW YORK (AP)—The price of oil posted its biggest gain in more than month, jumping nearly 5 percent, after the government reported a sharp rise in jobs growth for July. Benchmark U.S. crude on Friday rose $4.27 to end the day at $91.40 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, which sets the price for oil imported into the U.S., climbed $3.04, or 2.9 percent, to $108.94 per barrel in London. Prices climbed after the government said U.S. employers added 163,000 jobs in July. Last month's hiring was the best since February, though it wasn't enough to drive down the unemployment rate. Prices for oil and gasoline tend to rise on signs of strength in the economy, which increases energy demand.

Ousted CEO sues Tuesday Morning for discrimination

NEW YORK (AP)—The ousted CEO of retailer Tuesday Morning Corp. has filed discrimination charges against the company, saying she was sent packing after the board learned she had breast cancer. Kathleen Mason also is seeking unspecified damages and her old job back. The discrimination charges were filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Dallas. Tuesday Morning said in a statement that Mason's termination was lawful. It also said the accusation was without merit and intends to defend itself against the claims.

Nation

Source: Loughner would get life in shooting

PHOENIX (AP)—A possible plea deal in the deadly Tucson shootings that wounded then-U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords would send Jared Lee Loughner to prison for the rest of his life, a person familiar with the case said Saturday.

A court-appointed psychiatrist will testify Tuesday that Loughner is competent to enter a plea in the shooting rampage that killed six people and injured 13, including Giffords, said the person, who was not authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

A status conference in the federal case had already been scheduled for Tuesday in Tucson.

The person, speaking about upcoming events in the case, said the plan is for Loughner to enter a guilty plea in the murders and attempted murders. The plan is contingent on the judge in the case allowing Loughner to enter the plea. The Los Angeles Times reported earlier Saturday that Loughner was set to change his plea.

Bill Solomon, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office, said he could not comment on Loughner's case and the possibility of a guilty plea.

The Pima County attorney's office, which has said it could also pursue state prosecution of Loughner, declined to comment, said spokeswoman Isabel Burruel Smutzer.

Loughner had pleaded not guilty to 49 federal charges stemming from the Jan. 8, 2011, shooting outside a Tucson supermarket where Giffords was holding a meet-and-greet with constituents.

Loughner

Authorities said he shot Giffords, opened fire on the crowd and was subdued by bystanders. Giffords was shot in the head and subsequently left Congress to devote her time to rehabilitation.

Giffords and her husband were traveling in Europe, and spokeswoman Hayley Zachary said Saturday she had no information on developments in Loughner's case.

U.S. Rep. Ron Barber, a Democrat who was elected in June to replace Giffords in Congress after she resigned, also was wounded in the shooting. A spokesman for Barber did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

U.S. District Judge Larry Burns ruled previously that Loughner isn't psychologically fit to stand trial, but that he could eventually be made ready for trial after treatment.

An Arizona college that Loughner attended released numerous emails about him that painted a picture of a struggling student with emotional problems who disturbed others with his strange behavior.

Experts have concluded that Loughner suffers from schizophrenia, and prison officials in Missouri, where Loughner has been held, have forcibly medicated him with psychotropic drugs.

Even though psychologists have said Loughner's condition is improving, his lawyers have vigorously fought the government's efforts to medicate him.

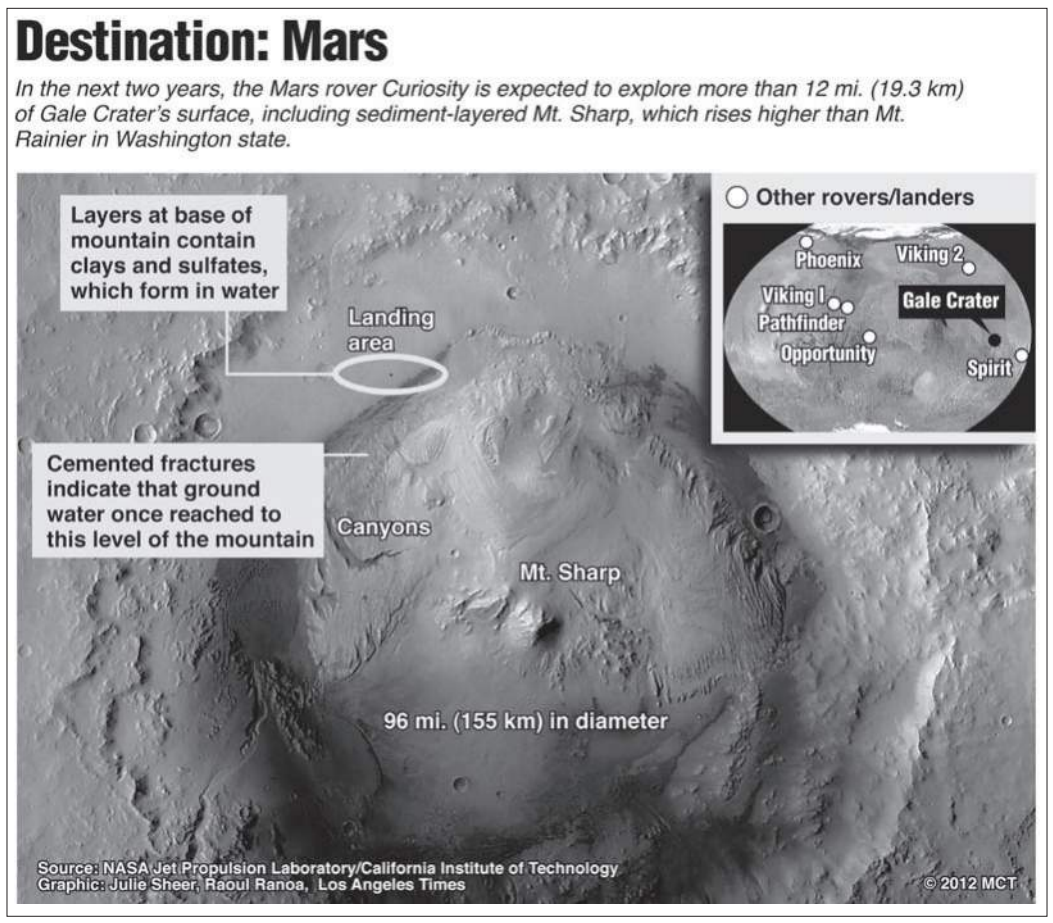
At one point, a federal appeals court halted the forced medication, but resumed it once mental health experts at the prison concluded that Loughner's condition was deteriorating further.

Loughner has demonstrated bizarre behavior since his arrest.

He was removed from a May 25, 2011, court hearing when he lowered his head to within inches of the courtroom table, then lifted his head and began a loud and angry rant.

His psychologist has said that since Loughner has been forcibly medicated, his condition has improved. He sat still and expressionless for seven hours at a hearing in September 2011.

NASA spacecraft speeding toward a landing on Mars


Destination: Mars
In the next two years, the Mars rover Curiosity is expected to explore more than 12 mi. (19.3 km) of Gale Crater's surface, including sediment-layered Mt. Sharp, which rises higher than Mt. Rainier in Washington state.
Layers at base of mountain contain clays and sulfates, which form in water
Landing area
Cemented fractures indicate that ground water once reached to this level of the mountain
Canyons
Mt. Sharp
96 mi. (155 km) in diameter
Other rovers/landers
Phoenix
Viking 2
Viking I
Pathfinder
Gale Crater
Opportunity
Spirit
Source: NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory/California Institute of Technology
Graphic: Julie Sheer, Raoul Ranoa, Los Angeles Times
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PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—After an 8 1/2-month voyage through space, NASA's souped-up Mars spacecraft zoomed toward the red planet for what the agency hopes will be an epic touchdown.

The fiery punch through the tenuous Martian atmosphere at 13,000 mph Sunday night marks the beginning of "seven minutes of terror" as the Curiosity rover aims for a bull's-eye landing inside a massive crater near the equator.

The latest landing attempt is more nerve-racking than in the past because NASA is testing out a new routine. Curiosity will steer itself part of the way and end on a dramatic note: Dangling by cables until its six wheels touch the ground.

That's the plan at least.

"Can we do this? Yeah, I think we can do this. I'm confident," Doug McCuistion, head of the Mars exploration program at NASA headquarters, said Saturday. "We have the A-plus team on this. They've done everything possible to ensure success, but that risk still exists."

Despite humanity's fascination with Mars, the track record for landing on it is less than stellar. Out of the 14 attempts by space agencies around the world to touch down on Earth's neighbor, only six have succeeded. NASA has fared better—with only one failure out of seven tries.

In keeping with a decades-old tradition, peanuts will be passed around the mission control room at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory for good luck.

NASA will need it. The $2.5 billion mission comes as the space agency faces a financial crunch. It abandoned a partnership with the European Space Agency to send missions in 2016 and 2018 and, instead, is charting a new future for Mars exploration.

For now, NASA is counting on Curiosity to nail the landing.

"We're now right on target to fly through the eye of the needle" at the top of the Martian atmosphere, said mission manager Arthur Amador.

Earlier in the week, a dust storm swirling to the south of the landing site gave the team some pause. Ashwin Vasavada, the mission's deputy project scientist and Mars weather forecaster, said the storm basically went "poof" and posed no threat.

"Mars appears to be cooperating very nicely with us. We expect good weather for landing Sunday night," he said.

As Curiosity plummets to the surface, it will rely on the precisely choreographed use of a heat shield and supersonic parachute to slow its descent. Less than a mile from the ground, the hovering spacecraft will unspool cables to lower the rover.

Due to the signal time lag between Mars and Earth (it takes about 14 minutes for a signal on Mars to zip to Earth), Curiosity will execute the landing autonomously, following the half a million lines of computer code designed by Earthlings.

Vast international child-porn network uncovered

BOSTON (AP)—The men came from different walks of life on two continents: a children's puppeteer in Florida, a hotel manager in Massachusetts, an emergency medical technician in Kansas, a day care worker in the Netherlands. In all, 43 men have been arrested over the past two years in a horrific, far-flung child porn network that unraveled like a sweater with a single loose thread.

In this case, the thread was a stuffed toy bunny.

The bunny, seen in a photo of a half-naked, distraught 18-month-old boy, was used to painstakingly trace a molester to Amsterdam. From there, investigators made one arrest after another of men accused of sexually abusing children, exchanging explicit photos of the attacks and even chatting online about abducting, cooking and eating youngsters.

Authorities have identified more than 140 young victims so far and say there is no end in sight as they pore through hundreds of thousands of images found on the suspects' computers. They are also trying to determine whether the men who talked about murder and cannibalism actually committed such acts or were just sharing twisted fantasies.

The still-widening investigation has been code-named Holitna, after a river in Alaska with many tributaries.

"They are the worst of the worst," said Bruce Foucart, agent in charge of the U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement agency's Homeland Security Investigations unit in Boston. "This isn't just a child that's nude and someone's taking pictures of him; this is a child that's being raped by an adult, which is horrific."

The case began to unfold when Robert Diduca, a Sheraton hotel manager from Milford, Mass., sent the photo of the Dutch boy to an undercover federal agent in Boston. Diduca, a married father of three who used the screen name "Babytodd," thought he was sending the picture to another man with a sexual interest in babies and toddlers.

Agents forwarded the photo to Interpol, the international police organization, and to several other countries.

An investigator for the Dutch police recognized the stuffed bunny as Miffy, a familiar character in a series of Dutch children's books. She also traced the boy's orange sweater to a small Amsterdam store that had sold only 20 others like it.

Congress breaks for 5 weeks, but much work undone

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress' performance matches its approval rating—abysmal.

Lawmakers headed home for a five-week break with a lengthy list of uncompleted work and little to show for the past year and a half except an eye-popping amount of dissatisfaction: Nearly 80 percent of Americans are unhappy with them. The Republican-controlled House and Democratic-led Senate have set record lows for production and record highs for dysfunction. Partisanship and election-year politics have left a drought-stricken nation wondering if new help will ever come and the U.S. Postal Service uncertain about its solvency. Some $110 billion in automatic, across-the-board cuts are due to hit military and domestic programs on Jan. 2, yet no bipartisan solution is in sight or even under discussion by those who really matter.

At the same time, President George W. Bush-era tax cuts for all Americans expire, threatening to send a sluggish economy right back into recession.

The standoff is what happens when a bitterly divided government mixes with election-year politics to throw sand in the gears of official Washington. The tea party-dominated House and a Senate controlled by Democrats struggling to keep their narrow majority in November view each other with a palpable disdain

House Speaker John Boehner, who came to Washington in 1991, bluntly described the divide that has made consensus a rare commodity. "The American people are probably more polarized now than any time since I've been here," the Ohio Republican told reporters. "And as a result we see that polarization reflected here in the halls of Congress. And even though both sides have some sharply different views and ideologies, our job is still to find the common ground."

But common ground is scarce. This is a Congress that can't do the big stuff while even the small stuff, such as a one-year extension of student loan subsidies that passed in June, makes them sweat.

Congress stumbled out of Washington for a five-week vacation one day early on Thursday on a typical note: a GOP filibuster in the Senate of a bipartisan cybersecurity bill and the House's abandonment of a one-year extension, as Republican leaders had planned, of food and farm policy.

Asia

US: China garrison raises tension in disputed sea

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States on Friday criticized China's new military garrison in the contested South China Sea as risking an escalation in tensions.

The State Department statement underscored U.S. concerns about situation in the resource-rich sea, a potential flashpoint. It voiced strong support for diplomatic efforts by Southeast Asian nations to negotiate with China, the region's rising military power which claims virtually all of the sea for itself and would prefer Washington to stay out of the matter.

The Senate on Thursday also urged restraint among the claimant states—China and five of its neighbors—and said the U.S. was committed to assisting Southeast Asian nations remaining "strong and independent."

Washington's response comes 10 days after China formally established Sansha city on a remote island, 350 kilometers (220 miles) from its southernmost province. Sansha is intended to administer hundreds of thousands of square miles of water where China wants to strengthen its control over disputed, and potentially oil-rich islands. The Philippines, a U.S. treaty ally, has described China's move as unacceptable. Vietnam called it a violation of international law.

AP

In this July 21, 2012 file photo, Chinese people chat in front of an administration office building for the Xisha, Nansha, Zhongsha islands on Yongxing Island, the government seat of Sansha City off the south China's Hainan province. Beijing on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012 summoned an American diplomat to express its dissatisfaction over U.S. criticism of China's new military garrison in the South China Sea.

The State Department said the new city and military garrison, "run counter to collaborative diplomatic efforts to resolve differences and risk further escalating tensions in the region."

Beijing has announced plans to set up such a garrison for Sansha, and has named officers to lead it, but has provided no other details.

The U.S. statement also follows an acrimonious annual meeting of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations last month, where for the first time in its 45-year history, the bloc failed to issue a communique. The host country, Cambodia, viewed as pro-Beijing, rejected a proposal by the Philippines and Vietnam to mention their separate territorial disputes with China.

Bonnie Glaser, a China expert at the Center for Strategic Studies think tank in Washington, said the U.S. seeks to shore up ASEAN unity and weaken China's ability to intimidate and coerce its neighbors.

She noted that the statement, which follows high-level deliberations within the Obama administration on the issue, makes no mention of other claimant nations' actions as provocative. That would annoy China, "which increasingly views the US as taking sides and emboldening Vietnam and the Philippines to confront China on South China Sea matters," Glaser said.

The statement noted an uptick in "confrontational rhetoric, disagreements over resource exploitation, coercive economic actions," and criticized the use of barriers to block access to the Scarborough Reef, scene of a standoff between Chinese and the Philippine vessels since April. It urged ASEAN and China to make progress on a code of conduct for addressing disagreements in the South China Sea.

Doctors: Japan nuclear plant workers face stigma

TOKYO (AP)—A growing number of Japanese workers who are risking their health to shut down the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant are suffering from depression, anxiety about the future and a loss of motivation, say two doctors who visit them regularly.

But their psychological problems are driven less by fears about developing cancer from radiation exposure and more by something immediate and personal: Discrimination from the very community they tried to protect, says Jun Shigemura, who heads a volunteer team of about ten psychiatrists and psychologists from the National Defense Medical College who meet with Tokyo Electric Power Co. nuclear plant employees.

They tell therapists they have been harangued by residents displaced in Japan's nuclear disaster and threatened with signs on their doors telling them to leave. Some of their children have been taunted at school, and prospective landlords have turned them away.

"They have become targets of people's anger," Shigemura told The Associated Press.

TEPCO workers—in their readily identifiable blue uniforms—were once considered to be among the elite in this rural area 230 kilometers (140 kilometers) north of Tokyo. But after the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami set off meltdowns at the Fukushima plant, residents came to view them as "perpetrators," Shigemura said.

Many TEPCO families in the area now hide their link to the company for fear of criticism, local doctors and psychiatrists say.

Shigemura likens the workers' experience to that of U.S. Vietnam veterans returning home to hostility in the 1960s and early `70s.

"They both worked for (the good of) their countries, but they got a backlash," he said.

About a dozen nuclear workers approached by the AP declined to be interviewed for this report. Except in rare cases, TEPCO has repeatedly declined requests to interview workers, and the workers themselves have shunned virtually all media attention, so these doctors' accounts provide an unusual glimpse into their lives.

PH Catholics rally against family planning

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine Roman Catholic Church leaders led a rally Saturday against a proposed law that would provide government funding for contraceptives and introduce reproductive health and sexuality classes in schools.

The House of Representatives is to decide next week whether to end debate on the bill and bring it to a final vote.

Archbishop Socrates Villegas of Pangasinan province said in a statement read to about 10,000 people at the rally that contraceptives corrupt moral values and promote the view that "babies are a nuisance."

The Philippines has one of the fastest-growing populations in Asia. President Benigno Aquino III has expressed support for the right to contraception, while the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy opposes artificial birth control.

Aquino called for passage of the bill during his annual address to Congress last month.

Socrates mocked Aquino's campaign to eliminate poverty by fighting corruption.

"You heard our president during his campaign say, 'If there is no corruption, there will be no poverty,'" Villegas said. "Birth control, they say, means more food, more classrooms, more houses and better health for mothers. If more babies are the cause of poverty, are we now saying, 'If there are no children, there will be no poor?'"

The bill being considered by the House would require the government to provide information on family planning methods, make contraceptives available, and hold reproductive health and sexuality classes from grade 5 through high school. It also seeks to raise AIDS awareness and help couples determine the right number of children and birth spacing.

House members are to vote Tuesday on whether to continue debate on the bill. The Senate still has not passed its own version. Any bill approved by Congress must be signed into law by Aquino.

In a statement Saturday, the Human Development Cluster—20 government agencies dealing with poverty and development—cited Aquino as saying there is an "urgent need for responsible parenthood to counter the country's soaring population growth and the disturbing social consequences."

Church officials in the predominantly Roman Catholic country have blocked passage of family planning laws in the past, saying they would erode moral values and encourage promiscuity and early pregnancies.

On Friday, Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle called for lawmakers to reject the bill because it "is not the solution to our many problems as individuals and as a country as it will even give rise to many other problems more pernicious and pervasive than the ones we face in the present."

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH death toll from typhoon rises to 39

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials say the bodies of 13 more drowning victims have been recovered, raising the death toll from a typhoon that left the country days ago to 39. Office of Civil Defense Administrator Benito Ramos says two bodies were retrieved Friday from Manila Bay. Eleven others were recovered late Thursday from various parts of the country. Several of the dead were children, including a 6-month old baby. Typhoon Saola dumped torrents of rain as it swept past the Philippines earlier this week. It moved Wednesday to Taiwan, where it left at least five people dead and two others missing. It then weakened to a tropical storm and headed westward to China, where it made landfall around noon Friday.

Flash floods in India leave 7 dead, 19 missing

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Flash floods and landslides triggered by torrential rains have killed at least seven people in northern India, including three firefighters who were swept away as they helped rescue the stranded, an official said Saturday. At least 19 other people—all construction workers—were missing and may have been washed away by the floods that hit the Himalayan foothills in Uttarakhand state, said district official R. Ramesh. The men were working on a hydro-electric project when they disappeared, he said. There has been incessant rain in the state since late Thursday and rivers are overflowing their banks. Scores of homes have been washed away and people have moved to buildings on safer ground. Soldiers are helping to evacuate people to relief camps that have opened in schools and government buildings.

Myanmar journalists demand end to censorship

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's newly assertive press corps rallied Saturday against the suspension of two weekly magazines in a once unthinkable act of defiance against government censors. Dressed in black T-shirts that read "Stop Killing Media," about 60 journalists held a petition drive to collect signatures from members of the media. The petition, addressed to President Thein Sein, calls for an end to censorship. Thein Sein has eased censorship as part of sweeping reforms after decades of repressive military rule, but some forms of control still exist, as authorities made clear by suspending the Voice Weekly and Envoy this past week.

World

Children, women newest victims of Congo rebellion

RUTSHURU, Congo (AP)—The little girl who miraculously survived the bullet that narrowly missed her eye and exited through the top of her head. The mother whose arm was blown off as she rushed to help the child whose head was blown away.

Most of the newly injured in Congo's latest eastern rebellion are, for the first time, civilians, and the majority are the most vulnerable—women and children.

A plethora of foreign rebel and local militia groups has operated in Eastern Congo since 1994, but the worst violence in years has erupted since hundreds of soldiers began deserting in April, demanding that the government renegotiate a March 23, 2009, agreement that integrated their former Rwandan-backed rebel group into the national army.

The most violent confrontations took place July 25, when rebels retook the strategic town of Rutshuru, 75 kilometers (50 miles) north of Goma from their former comrades in the army. The rebels now control the route north from within 25 kilometers of the eastern provincial capital of Goma. On July 25, when the shells started exploding, Penina Mukandaysenga was playing in her back yard with her three children in Kiwanja, a small town five minutes' drive from Rutshuru. Her husband had gone to Goma for medical treatment.

AP

Mireille Iduhaye, 8, lays in her hospital bed at Rutshuru hospital, now under control of M23 rebels some 75kms (48 miles) north of Goma, eastern Congo, Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012.

"I just saw my child's head blown away by the first bomb (shell)," she said at Rutshuru government hospital, which is supported by the French branch of Doctors Without Borders.

As she ran toward 18-month-old infant Noelina Kisubizo, her youngest child, she said a second shell exploded in the garden. It tore away half her right arm—she is right-handed—and shrapnel cut into her left arm, leaving it momentarily useless.

Mukandaysenga barely opened her swollen lips as she listlessly described the nightmare.

Other injured people at the hospital said the shells were fired from a hillside above Kiwanja, from M23 rebels attacking Congolese soldiers.

Rebel spokesman Col. Vianney Kazarama said it was not clear who was shooting where that day. He said the rebels were responding to fire from the Congolese army, whom he charged were firing from behind an impromptu camp of about 2,000 refugees who had gathered around a military base at Kiwanja of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo.

"They were using the displaced people as a human shield, and fighting alongside the FDLR," he claimed.

Congolese army officers have repeatedly denied that they collaborate with the FDLR, or Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda, though previous U.N. reports have indicated certain army officers do. The FDLR is led by some of the people who committed Rwanda's 1994 genocide of some 800,000 Tutsi people and moderate Hutus.

The M23 is the latest reincarnation of a group of Congolese Tutsis who first deserted the army in 1998, charging that Congolese soldiers were fighting with, instead of against, the Rwandan Hutu rebels.

At Rutshuru hospital, the constant wail of children in pain serves as a background for doctors and nurses who have treated some 90 people wounded in last week's battle—nearly one-fifth of the total of 500 victims treated there since the rebellion began three months ago, according to Doctors Without Borders.

The organization's Dr. Louis Albert Massing said only 10 of the 90 were soldiers. The rebels treat their own wounded. Massing said combatants comprised 70 percent of the wounded treated at Rutshuru hospital until last week.

Riot leaves an Egyptian village without Christians

DAHSHOUR, Egypt (AP)—When the angry mob was rampaging through town, storming her home and those of other Christians, the 70-year-old woman hid in her cow pen, pushing a rock against the door. There she cowered for hours, at one point passing out from tear gas being fired by police that seeped in.

When Sameeha Wehba emerged just before dawn, she found she was the only Christian left in this small Egyptian village just south of Cairo.

Dahshour's entire Christian community—as many as 100 families some estimate—fled to nearby towns in the violence earlier this week. The flock's priest, cloaked in a white sheet to hide him, was taken out in a police van. At least 16 homes and properties of Christians were pillaged and some torched and a church damaged.

The violence was ultimately rooted in a dispute over a badly ironed shirt that escalated into a fight in which a Christian burned a Muslim to death, in turn sparking the rampage by angry Muslims.

"It was a devil's moment," Wehba said Thursday at the home of her Muslim neighbors, who have taken her in. "Whoever caused this was the devil's son."

The unprecedented exodus underscores how sectarian divisions that festered under decades of Hosni Mubarak's rule are taking a turn to the worse, complicated by the problems of post-revolution Egypt, a country where 10 percent of the population are Christian.

Police forces have been weakened and often don't carry out their duties. Islamists have been emboldened, with rhetoric fanning hatreds. In an atmosphere of lawlessness, Muslims and Christians alike feel freer in unleashing prejudices that in the past were kept barely under the surface.

Most notably in Dahshour, police did nothing as tensions spiraled following the burning of the Muslim man late last month. While the man clung to life for several days, Muslim residents openly threatened to retaliate against all Christians. When the Muslim died Tuesday, the only solution from police was to encourage or assist in removing the Christian population before the violence erupted that night, Christians say. During the rampage, security forces acted to stop the crowd from storming the church, firing tear gas.

Egypt's President asserts authority, defends army

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's President Mohammed Morsi on Saturday gave a lengthy speech to the army in praise of its role during the run-up to his election, proclaiming that he, his government and the powerful generals will cooperate for the future.

Speaking with the head of the armed forces, Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi by his side, and hundreds troops including generals in the audience, Morsi stressed his legitimacy as Egypt's first popularly elected president, but also acknowledged that his ascension to the office would have been impossible without the military's support.

The words signaled an understanding between him and the army, after initial tensions during Egypt's transition period since the ouster of Hosni Mubarak, himself a former air force commander who led the country for three decades.

Just days before Morsi was declared president, the military council, headed by Tantawi, stripped him of significant powers and declared themselves as the country's legislative authority after dissolving a parliament dominated by Morsi's Islamist Muslim Brotherhood movement.

The military, which took the reins of power after Mubarak was deposed in a popular uprising in early 2011, also has control over the process of drafting Egypt's new constitution.

But Morsi largely avoided those issues in the Saturday speech, focusing on the military's support for the election of a civilian president.

"The will of the people will never be against the armed forces," he said, in a thinly veiled reference to his own office. "It is with the armed forces' help, after God, that we will protect Egypt's interest internally and internationally."

He also said the armed forces remain a "cornerstone" in Egypt's relations with the international community, and a factor for the country's political and economic stability.

Gunmen kidnap Iranians just outside Syrian capital

BEIRUT (AP)—Gunmen snatched 47 Iranian pilgrims just outside Damascus on Saturday in a brazen attack that revealed the growing instability at the center of President Bashar Assad's power.

The abduction came as Syrian troops moved to crush one of the last rebel-dominated neighborhoods in the capital, shelling the area heavily. No group immediately claimed responsibility, although Iranian state media blamed the rebels fighting the Assad regime.

The pilgrims were on a bus taking them from the suburb of Sayeda Zeinab, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of Damascus, to the airport to return home when they were kidnapped, according to the Iranian state news agency, IRNA.

Mainly Shiite Iran is a close ally of the beleaguered Syrian government, which is dominated by the Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiism. Syria has long welcomed Iranian pilgrims visiting the ornate gold-domed shrine of Sayeda Zeinab, the Prophet Muhammad's granddaughter; up to 700,000 pilgrims used to come every year, IRNA said, although the number has fallen precipitously since the 17-month uprising that has killed an estimated 19,000.

Late Saturday, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency announced that Syrian forces had freed the hostages, but cited no source. There was no confirmation from the Syrians.

Still, the kidnapping underscores the inability of the regime, which is fighting rebels in all the major cities of the country, to even control the immediate environs of the capital city.

Just a few miles from the site of the kidnapping, regime forces encircled the southern Damascus neighborhood of Tadamon, a bastion of rebel support. Heavy explosions shook the capital Saturday, and plumes of smoke rose from the neighborhood that was attacked by regime forces the night before.

"We heard heavy bombing since dawn," a witness in Damascus told The Associated Press, asking that his name not be used out of fear for his personal safety. "Helicopters are in the sky." By nightfall the state media reported the whole capital to be in government hands, but such announcements have in the past proved premature.

Focus

NEW YORK (AP)—Deteriorating financial conditions in Europe are weighing down companies' profits. And hope of salvation from other regions—such as China, Brazil and the United States—is starting to dim as those economies weaken.

Fragile European economy dampens CEOs' outlook

By SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP BUSINESS WRITER

That's the message from this week's parade of second-quarter earnings from some of the world's largest companies.

"The new reality is that this world is not in a normal growth mode," Dow Chemical CEO Andrew N. Liveris said on a conference call Thursday. "And it does not appear that we will see this for at least 12 to 24 months."

One CEO after another told investors and Wall Street analysts that Europe was making them nervous.

Royal Caribbean CEO Richard D. Fain said, "The steady drumbeat of negative news emanating out of Europe is certainly having an impact." The chief executive of German automaker Daimler AG, Dieter Zietsche, referred to "economic clouds in the sky, which are floating especially over Europe."

Europe's debt crisis has worsened over the past few months. Six of the 17 nations that use the euro currency are in recession. Solutions have proven elusive.

Because the global economy is so integrated, what happens in Europe doesn't stay in Europe. As Europeans buy fewer cars, for instance, profits of American automakers fall. Ford Motor Co. expects to lose more than $1 billion in Europe this year. Europe's slowdown also hurts factories in China. In turn, those Chinese factories buy less iron ore from Brazil.

So, after three years of trying to crawl out from the Great Recession, companies are once again faced with "uncertainty," ``headwinds," the prospect of "slow growth" and any other corporate buzzword you can think of. For many, their prospects aren't looking good.

But not every company is so glum. Heavy construction equipment manufacturer Caterpillar reported blockbuster earnings Wednesday, driven in part by companies making long-term investments to upgrade their aging machines.

Here is a look at five of the world's bellwether companies and what their earnings say about the economy:

AP

In this Sept. 22, 2011 photo, Andrew Liveris, Chairman and CEO of Dow Chemical, speaks at the Clinton Global Initiative, in New York.

Volkswagen AG

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: Volkswagen is Europe's largest carmaker—selling nearly a quarter of all cars there—and is a key player in North America, China, Russia and India.

WHAT THE NUMBERS SAID: Volkswagen's second-quarter profit jumped 18 percent to $6.84 billion, or $14.61 per share. That's up from $5.86 billion net income, or $12.18 per share, a year ago.

WHAT THE EARNINGS SAID ABOUT THE ECONOMY: It's tough to sell cars when the economy is in the tank, which is the case in southern Europe. The overall European car market shrank 6.8 percent. Volkswagen held up better, with its European sales declining just 1.5 percent. In other parts of the globe, people still want to buy cars. Demand for cars increased in the second quarter in the U.S., China, Russia and India. Volkswagen said that should continue in the second half of the year, although at a slower pace. The German automaker warned the car market in western Europe would continue to shrink.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAID: Analysts told clients not to worry about a slowdown in China for Volkswagen after seeing the results. They said the overall earnings numbers were solid, even though the Volkswagen brand had its worst European volume performance in a long time.

THE QUOTE: "Our strong position on world markets will help us to exceed the development of the overall market despite the challenging environment," CEO Martin Winterkorn said in a statement.

McDonald's Corp.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: McDonald's is the world's largest hamburger chain and has become an investor darling by consistently delivering strong results through boom and bust times. But the global economy is starting to take some of the shine off the Golden Arches.

WHAT THE NUMBERS SAID: The company's net income fell 4 percent in the second quarter as a strong dollar took a bite out of results. Global sales at restaurants open at least a year rose 3.7 percent, which would be a respectable showing for most fast-food chains. For McDonald's, it was the slowest growth since the end of 2009.

WHAT THE EARNINGS SAY ABOUT THE ECONOMY: Even fast-food can seem pricey when times get tough. McDonald's executives noted that they're seeing consumers change their behavior. In the hardest-hit regions of the world, for example, people are simply opting to eat out less.

WHAT THE ANALYSTS SAID: Analysts said that McDonald's ability to grow sales at established restaurants in such a challenging climate reflected positively on the company's ability to execute. Others noted that McDonald's could face increased competition and continuing pressures from a strong dollar. Companies that do a lot of business overseas take a hit when the dollar strengthens because international sales translate into fewer dollars back home.

THE QUOTE: Chief Financial Officer Peter Bensen said the problem is not just that the economy is weak, but that has remained weak for so long. "People are staying at home," he said in a conference call with investors. "And the magnitude of the issues in Europe is having ripple effects around the world."

United Parcel Service Inc.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: UPS moves millions of packages between consumers and businesses every day—everything from flowers to car parts and computer chips.

WHAT THE NUMBERS SAID: Second-quarter net income rose just 2 percent to $1.12 billion, while revenue improved by little more than 1 percent. International revenue fell, while Internet shoppers kept UPS trucks busy in the U.S. UPS sees the global economy getting worse before it gets better. That's why it cut its full-year earnings forecast to $4.50 to $4.70 per share from $4.75 to $5 per share previously.

WHAT THE EARNINGS SAID ABOUT THE ECONOMY: The world's largest package delivery company has thrived domestically, but now it's more pessimistic about U.S. growth than many economists. UPS expects the U.S. economy, by far the world's largest, will grow just 1 percent this year. The company cited slower growth at U.S. service companies, lower retail sales and still-high unemployment as signs that the U.S. isn't holding up as well as UPS anticipated just three months ago. And shipments out of Asia, which grew by double-digits two years ago, have shrunk as Europe's economy founders.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAID: Several analysts reduced their outlooks for the company, saying the quarterly results were somewhat disappointing. Even so, they think UPS should be able to grow in a weaker global economy as it saves money through reduced service out of Asia.

THE QUOTE: "Economies around the world are showing signs of weakening and our customers are increasingly nervous," Chairman and CEO Scott Davis said in a conference call with analysts. He added: "I wouldn't say we're pessimistic about the future. We're just a lot more uncertain about how much the economy will grow."

ArcelorMittal

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: ArcelorMittal is the world's largest producer of steel, a product used in everything from skyscrapers and bridges to appliances and cars.

WHAT THE NUMBERS SAID: The company announced Wednesday net income of $959 million for its second quarter, down nearly 38 percent from the $1.535 billion a year earlier. However, the company's profit was up sharply from the $11 million posted in the first quarter of this year.

WHAT THE EARNINGS SAID ABOUT THE ECONOMY: The company said the global economy "remains fragile" and that it expects the second half of 2012 to look pretty much like the first six months. The situation in Europe and its potential impact on other markets remains the biggest concern. The company saw hopeful signs in the U.S. housing market, but says a real recovery in the construction market won't happen quickly. Arcelor says its outlook for Brazil, where it has a large presence, is "bullish," but cautions the economy there is experiencing "growing pains."

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAID: Analyst Jeff Largey of Macquarie Capital said the steel market "remains challenged," but investors may be underestimating the strength in Arcelor's mining operations.

THE QUOTE: "Market conditions have been very challenging, indeed more challenging than we had expected due to a combination of factors, not least the still unresolved crisis in the eurozone," CEO Lakshmi Mittal said in a statement.

Caterpillar Inc.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: Caterpillar is the world's largest maker of mining and construction equipment.

WHAT THE NUMBERS SAID: Caterpillar's second-quarter profit soared 67 percent to $1.7 billion, or $2.54 per share. That's up from $1.02 billion net income, or $1.52 per share, a year ago. North America was a bright spot. Sales in Europe decelerated from month to month.

WHAT THE EARNINGS SAID ABOUT THE ECONOMY: Caterpillar's results suggest the economy may be doing better than most people realize. Sales were up in every region of the world. The biggest improvement came in North America, where construction firms were upgrading their aging equipment. Caterpillar executives predict the global economy is bound to grow in 2013 because interest-rate actions by several countries will take effect and questions about U.S. fiscal policy will be resolved by the election.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAID: Analysts praised Caterpillar's solid second-quarter results, but they said the company faces some economic headwinds through the rest of 2012 because of slower growth in China, Europe's debt problems and uncertainty about the U.S. economy.

THE QUOTE: Speaking about the economy, Chief Financial Officer Ed Rapp said: "It's better than what you read in the newspapers."

Health & Fitness

Is your problem gluten? Or faddish eating?

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

AP

In this Thursday, July 14, 2012 photo, Michele Kelly, owner of Pure Knead bakery, poses with a rack of freshly baked gluten-free sandwich bread in Decatur, Ga.

ATLANTA (AP)—It sounds like an unfolding epidemic: A decade ago, virtually no one in the U.S. seemed to have a problem eating gluten in bread and other foods. Now, millions do.

Gluten-free products are flying off grocery shelves, and restaurants are boasting of meals with no gluten. Celebrities on TV talk shows chat about the digestive discomfort they blame on the wheat protein they now shun. Some churches even offer gluten-free Communion wafers.

"I don't know whether there's more people getting this or that more people are noticing" they have a problem, said the Rev. Richard Allen, pastor at Mamaroneck United Methodist Church, north of New York City.

Or is it just another food fad?

Faddishness is a big part of it. Americans will spend an estimated $7 billion this year on foods labeled gluten-free, according to the market research firm Mintel. But the best estimates are that more than half the consumers buying these products—perhaps way more than half—don't have any clear-cut reaction to gluten.

They buy gluten-free because they think it will help them lose weight, or because they seem to feel better, or because they mistakenly believe they are sensitive to gluten.

"We have a lot of self-diagnosing going on out there," said Melissa Abbott, who tracks the gluten-free market for the Hartman Group, a Seattle-area market research organization.

Fads aside, research suggests more people are truly getting sick from the gluten found in wheat, rye and barley, but the reasons aren't clear.

In the most serious cases, gluten triggers celiac disease. The condition causes abdominal pain, bloating and intermittent diarrhea. Those with the ailment don't absorb nutrients well and can suffer weight loss, fatigue, rashes and other problems.

It was once considered extremely rare in the U.S. But about 20 years ago, a few scientists began exploring why celiac disease was less common here than in Europe and other countries. They concluded that it wasn't less common here; it was just under-diagnosed.

More recently, a research team led by the Mayo Clinic's Dr. Joseph Murray looked at blood samples taken from Americans in the 1950s and compared them with samples taken from people today, and determined it wasn't just better diagnosis driving up the numbers. Celiac disease actually was increasing. Indeed, the research confirms estimates that about 1 percent of U.S. adults have it today, making it four times more common now than it was 50 years ago, Murray and his colleagues reported Tuesday in the American Journal of Gastroenterology.

That translates to nearly 2 million Americans with celiac disease.

Celiac disease is different from an allergy to wheat, which affects a much smaller number of people, mostly children who outgrow it.

Scientists suggest that there may be more celiac disease today because people eat more processed wheat products like pastas and baked goods than in decades past, and those items use types of wheat that have a higher gluten content. Gluten helps dough rise and gives baked goods structure and texture.

Or it could be due to changes made to wheat, Murray said.

In the 1950s, scientists began cross-breeding wheat to make hardier, shorter and better-growing plants. It was the basis of the Green Revolution that boosted wheat harvests worldwide. Norman Borlaug, the U.S. plant scientist behind many of the innovations, won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work.

But the gluten in wheat may have somehow become even more troublesome for many people, Murray said.

That also may have contributed to what is now called "gluten sensitivity."

Doctors recently developed a definition for gluten sensitivity, but it's an ambiguous one. It's a label for people who suffer bloating and other celiac symptoms and seem to be helped by avoiding gluten, but don't actually have celiac disease. Celiac disease is diagnosed with blood testing, genetic testing, or biopsies of the small intestine.

The case for gluten sensitivity was bolstered last year by a very small but often-cited Australian study. Volunteers who had symptoms were put on a gluten-free diet or a regular diet for six weeks, and they weren't told which one. Those who didn't eat gluten had fewer problems with bloating, tiredness and irregular bowel movements.

Clearly, "there are patients who are gluten-sensitive," said Dr. Sheila Crowe, a San Diego-based physician on the board of the American Gastroenterological Association.

What is hotly debated is how many people have the problem, she added. It's impossible to know "because the definition is nebulous," she said.

One of the most widely cited estimates comes from Dr. Alessio Fasano, a University of Maryland researcher who led studies that changed the understanding of how common celiac disease is in the U.S.

Fasano believes 6 percent of U.S. adults have gluten sensitivity. But that's based on a review of patients at his clinic—hardly a representative sample of the general public.

Other estimates vary widely, he said. "There's a tremendous amount of confusion out there," Fasano said.

Whatever the number, marketing of foods without gluten has exploded. Those with celiac disease, of course, are grateful. Until only a few years ago, it was difficult to find grocery and dining options.

"It's a matter of keeping people safe," said Michelle Kelly, an Atlanta-area woman who started a gluten-free, dairy-free, soy-free, nut-free bakery in 2010 after her son was diagnosed with celiac disease. While conventional bakers use wheat flour, she uses such ingredients as millet flour, sorghum flour, brown rice flour and tapioca starch.

At one of Atlanta's largest and busiest health food stores, Return to Eden, manager Troy DeGroff said over a third of his customers come in for gluten-free products for themselves or their family.

"Thank you, Elisabeth Hasselbeck," he said, referring to one of the hosts of the daytime talk show "The View" who helped popularize gluten-free eating.

ON THE NET

■ Celiac disease: http://digestive.niddk.nih.gov/ddiseases/pubs/celiac/index.aspx

WHO official: Ebola under control in Uganda

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Doctors were slow to respond to an outbreak of Ebola in Uganda because symptoms weren't always typical, but a World Health Organization official said Friday that authorities are halting the spread of the deadly disease.

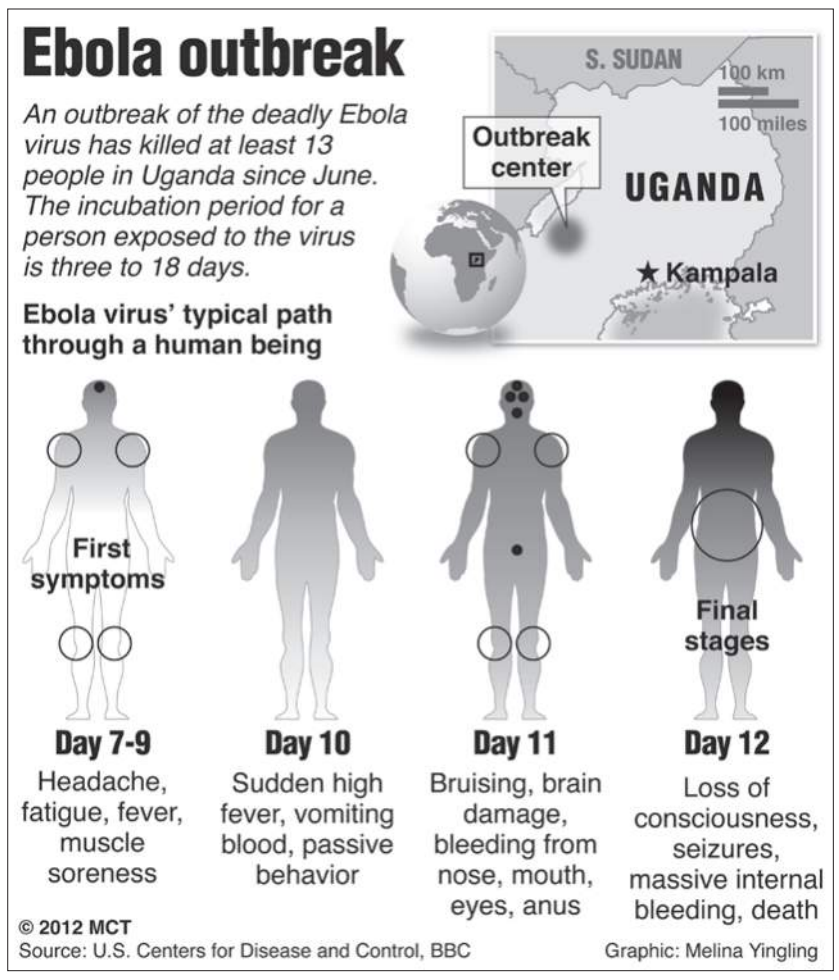
Joaquim Saweka, the WHO representative in Uganda, told reporters in the capital Kampala that everyone known to have had contact with Ebola victims has been isolated. Ugandan health officials have created an "Ebola contact list" with names of people who had even the slightest contact with those who contracted Ebola. The list now bears 176 names.

"The structure put in place is more than adequate," Saweka said. "We are isolating the suspected or confirmed cases."

Ebola was confirmed in Uganda on July 28, several days after villagers were dying in a remote corner of western Uganda. Ugandan officials were slow to investigate possible Ebola because the victims did not show the usual symptoms, such as coughing blood. At least 16 Ugandans have died of the disease.

Delays in confirming Ebola allowed the disease to spread to more villages deep in the western district of Kibaale, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said.

"The doctors in Kibaale say the symptoms were a bit atypical of Ebola," Museveni said in a national address Monday. "They were not clearly like Ebola symptoms. Because of that delay, the sickness spread to another village."


Ebola outbreak
An outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus has killed at least 13 people in Uganda since June. The incubation period for a person exposed to the virus is three to 18 days.
Ebola virus' typical path through a human being
S. SUDAN
100 km
100 miles
Outbreak center
UGANDA
Kampala
First symptoms
Day 7-9
Headache, fatigue, fever, muscle soreness
Day 10
Sudden high fever, vomiting blood, passive behavior
Day 11
Bruising, brain damage, bleeding from nose, mouth, eyes, anus
Final stages
Day 12
Loss of consciousness, seizures, massive internal bleeding, death
© 2012 MCT
Source: U.S. Centers for Disease and Control, BBC
Graphic: Melina Yingling

Saweka said that organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are helping Ugandan officials to control the spread of Ebola.

This is the fourth outbreak of Ebola in Uganda since 2000, when the disease killed 224 people and left hundreds more traumatized in northern Uganda.

Ebola is highly infectious and kills quickly. The disease was first reported in 1976 in Congo and is named for the river where it was recognized, according to the CDC.

The aid group Doctors Without Borders said in a statement on Wednesday that the first victim of the Ebola outbreak was a 3-month-old girl and that of the 65 people who attended her funeral, 15 later contracted the deadly disease.

Funerals in Uganda are typically elaborate affairs that draw huge crowds. Health officials have now taken on the task of safely burying the bodies of Ebola victims, Saweka said.

Life & Style

Expats search for home-country Olympics

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

From the Irish pubs of Stockholm to bustling Koreatown in Los Angeles, expat Olympic fans around the world are following—or trying to follow—their favorite back-home athletes, an often lonely and difficult pursuit in our otherwise connected world.

"Watching the Olympics from here is weird for me," said Beto Capon, a 25-year-old call center worker from Mexico City who's been living in Israel for four years.

At Mike's Place, a popular hangout in downtown Jerusalem where the American, British and Canadian flags fly alongside that of Israel, Capon took in women's swimming. He still roots for Mexico when the Olympics roll around.

"Here I don't have fans to share the experience with," he said

Steve McCready, 52, was jollier at Dubliner's in central Stockholm for the boxing match between Ireland and Germany. Fifteen years in Sweden, the construction worker is soaking up six to seven hours a day of the London Games thanks to the pub's satellite TV and the company of fellow Irishmen. Irish badminton? He was watching.

"Of course you want to follow your home country. If Ireland is competing you want to see them, especially if they do well," McCready said Thursday.

But he's not bothered by the Olympic-viewing eccentricities of his adopted Sweden.

"You have to accept that in any country you're living in, they will concentrate on their own teams and favorite sports," he said. "Take handball, for example. The Swedes love it, so there's going to be a lot of that."

Asa Ibrahim, a spokeswoman for the municipality of Sodertalje, said in her area's large Iraqi and Somali immigrant neighborhoods people prefer to watch Olympic events at home—with friends.

"There are places here where just about every balcony has one or two satellite dishes. They do that to get their home country's channels, but then they also invite each other over to watch things together," Ibrahim said. "People here prefer to go to each other's houses."

Aside from pubs and satellite dishes, some sports fans far from their homelands are resorting to video online, thanks to healthy bandwidth and programs like the Expat Shield, which helps users hide their IP addresses to bypass restrictions on who has legal permission to show the games—and where.

James Bosworth, an American blogger living in Managua, Nicaragua, could use some help.

AP

This Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012 photo shows Dane Burridge, left, Ian Anderson, second from left, Christie Martyn, center, Adam Austin, second from right, and David Hannah, all from Perth, Australia, enjoying drinks at The Australian, a sports bar in New York, where customers can kangaroo steaks and watch Australian commercial television.

He can watch the games on his local Claro cable TV provider and even some NBC programming, but he can't review the day's video online at his leisure.

"I go to NBC's page, I'm blocked. I go to BBC, I'm blocked. I go to CCTV, I'm blocked," he said. "And when Claro TV's cable went down for four days I was left without anything."

At the It's Boba Time cafe in Los Angeles, immigrants and college students sucked tapioca balls and milk tea through fat straws Wednesday, some looking for the Olympics the old-fashioned way, thumbing through Korean-language newspapers with color photos of judo and fencing stars on their front pages.

Staring intently at his laptop, 49-year-old Joon Ha of Sherman Oaks, Calif., watched the finals of sports South Korea is competitive in—judo, fencing, shooting, archery—via downloads from Korean television websites.

NBC's coverage out of London hasn't included many Korean athletes, but that doesn't upset him.

"The United States is a very big country, and it's understandable that there are so many games they compete in that having the games of this one country on television will occupy all the programming," he said.

That's a sore subject with British expats who were outraged when the BBC blocked non-UK users from accessing Web streams of some popular radio programs due to International Olympic Committee rights demands.

After a deluge of complaints, the BBC announced that it had negotiated with the IOC to allow non-UK users access to all but a few Web streams. The reasoning: Although the shows do feature Olympic content, it isn't broadcast live and makes up a minority of programming. Ironically, if you're in a country where the IOC didn't sell exclusive rights to broadcast the games, you stand a better chance of being able to watch the events you're interested in than if you're in countries like France, Japan or Mexico where it did. That's because the IOC is providing its own free YouTube live stream of the games in 64 nations across Asia and Africa.

In Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Zambia, Zimbabwe and elsewhere, fans can watch 10 live streams as well as highlights, provided they can access high-speed Internet. The importance of Internet and mobile viewing hasn't been lost on the IOC. It said in a statement that it expects the number of hours broadcast online and on mobile platforms globally to exceed television coverage for the first time during the London Games.

Fans of American sports such as baseball and basketball have long found ways to get around territory restrictions by using so-called proxy computers in the U.S., or signing up to U.S.-based virtual private networks, or VPNs. Such networks make computers appear to be in the United States, for a charge of about $10 per month.

Colin Manning, an Irishman who has lived in Germany for more than a decade, remains an avid fan of Olympic sports back home. He has turned to the gray area of VPNs to access the Irish broadcaster RTE and fumes about the restrictions as "completely mad in the digital age."

"They are still operating in this broadcaster mode where the signal is completely controllable," said the 51-year-old computer scientist as he sat in a Berlin cafe. "There is no concept of saying `Colin Manning is in Berlin and he wants to buy this package from us. Let's sell it to him.'"

At the Chinatown branch of the San Francisco Public Library, 22-year-old Kevin Liao is all about broadband for the Olympics. Flipping through a Chinese comic book, the Chinese emigre of two years had no complaints about the U.S.-centric coverage during NBC's prime time.

"NBC is on the TV. I don't like watching TV," he said. "On the Chinese sites, I can get my full coverage of how Chinese teams are doing but still get a little bit of how American teams are doing."

Miao Liu, a 21-year-old sophomore at American University in Washington, D.C., and a native of Shenzhen, China, said she gave up on NBC's coverage because of the decision to broadcast the opening ceremonies on tape delay. She, too, has been watching the Olympics online, streaming coverage from China's CCTV network, and she's been pleased with it. "They show the entire competition, but obviously they will talk more about our athletes," Liu said.

NBC's coverage could benefit from a more international approach, she said. "It seems a little weird since America is an immigrant country and so diverse."

While the commentary on NBC is U.S.-focused, customers at The Australian, a sports bar with kangaroo steaks on the menu in Manhattan's Garment District, can watch Australian commercial television.

That's just what four 20-something vacationing friends from Down Under were looking for. They sipped drinks and munched on lunch Thursday, waiting for Australian swimmer Mitch Larkin to compete while the rest of America was honed in on American Ryan Lochte.

"A lot of bars claimed they were showing everything, but it was just NBC," said Ian Anderson, a 27-year-old from Perth.

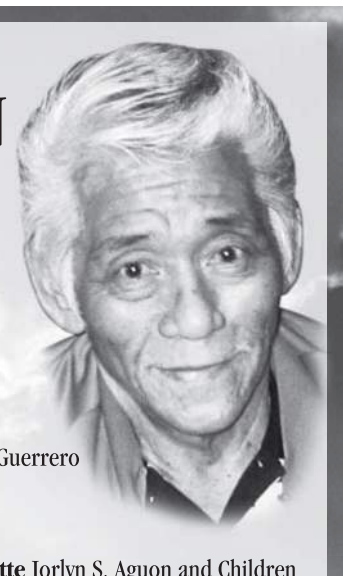
Tasari Wossen, a 73-year-old native of Ethiopia who lives in Washington, D.C., said he was dismayed by NBC's focus on American athletes—and not optimistic that he would get an opportunity to see his countrymen compete in distance-running events.

"For a country that says it's about freedom of speech and balanced coverage to completely ignore the rest of the world goes against the Olympic spirit for me," said Wossen, a freelance journalist. "I don't think it benefits the American public. It's very narrow-minded."

In Celebration of His New Life

JOAQUIN SANTOS AGUON

Better Known As *"Akin Mantika"*



Born to Life on August 20th 1941 and was
called to rest in the Grace of our Lord on August 1st 2012

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Wife: Joaquina S. Aguon
Mother: Rosa Santa Maria Santos Aguon
Father: Antonio Mafanas Aguon
Brother/Sister: Juan S. Aguon, Julia A. Cepeda
Parents in Law: Maria Hocog Deleon Guerrero & Jose Atalig Deleon Guerrero
Great Granddaughter: Angel Franette Aguon Faisao

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Children/Spouse: **Alan** S. Aguon and Children(Grand Child), **Antoniette** Jorlyn S. Aguon and Children (Grand Children), **Joaquin** S. Aguon Jr., **Tricia** Marie S. Aguon & Florencio George Falig and Children (Grand Children), **Rose** A and Derek Hocog and Children, **Edwin** Joseph S. Aguon & Nadine Marie K. Aquino and Children, **Lana** Marie Aguon & George Eperiam and Children, **Vincent** Anthony S. Aguon & Thesia Marie DLC Aguon and Children, **Joshua** S. Aguon & Margo Aldan, **Josef** Joachim S. Aguon & Rosalia Aldan and Child, **Joaqisha** Kiana S. Aguon, **Kaywin** Joaquin S. Aguon, **Elijah** Keanue S. Aguon

Reared Children: Lucian I. George, Patrick I. George, Cristino I. George, Jasmer DLC Koshiro
Brothers & Sisters: †Juan S. Aguon & Family, †Julia A. Cepeda & Family, Santiago S. Aguon & Family, Jose S. Aguon & Family, Ramon S. Aguon & Family, Consolacion S. Aguon & Family, Dorotheo S. Aguon & Family
Brother & Sisters In-laws: Jose Santos & Family, †Gregoria Malens & Family, Elphidia Kosam & Family, Lorenza Monkeya & Family, Rita Fitipol & Family, Carmen Fitipol & Family

He is also survived by and will be missed by his numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, God children & Friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 A.M., Rosary at 7:00 P.M., at San Jose Church.

On Thursday, August 09, 2012 his remains will leave CHC Morgue at 7:30 a.m. and will be escorted to San Jose Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed immediately by interment services at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Children & Families

Jacksons say estate executors harming the family

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Janet, Randy and Rebbie Jackson say the executors of Michael Jackson's will are causing harm by damaging "fundamental family relationships" and isolating matriarch Katherine Jackson "from anyone questioning the validity of Michael's will."

The Jackson siblings released a statement late Friday through an attorney amid a fight over their brother's will with the executors of his estate.

On Thursday a judge named TJ Jackson, a cousin to Michael Jackson's three children, as co-guardian with Katherine Jackson, who was named their sole caretaker in the disputed will.

Janet, Randy and Rebbie Jackson accuse the executors of a "relentless" negative media campaign and say they have been barred from visiting their 82-year-old mother or Jackson's children

"The effect of that notice not only is to damage fundamental family relationships, it is also to isolate Katherine Jackson from anyone questioning the validity of Michael's will," reads the statement by Janet Jackson's attorney, Blair G. Brown, released on behalf of Janet, Randy and Rebbie Jackson. They say they will continue to contest Michael Jackson's will because "the executors have never explained how Michael could have signed his will in California on a date that irrefutable evidence establishes that he was in New York."

AP

In this Oct. 8, 2011 file photo, from left, Prince Jackson, Prince Michael II "Blanket" Jackson and Paris Jackson arrive on stage at the Michael Forever the Tribute Concert, at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales.

Representatives for the executors of the will did not immediately respond to calls and emails requesting comment. However, representatives for executors John Branca and John McClain released a statement some weeks ago saying, "Any doubts about the validity of Michael's will and his selection of Executors were thoroughly and completely debunked two years ago when a challenge was rejected by the Los Angeles County Superior Court, the California Court of Appeals and, finally, the California Supreme Court."

Schwarzenegger says sports zeal landed him in brig

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Arnold Schwarzenegger was so eager to start his bodybuilding career that he briefly ended up in an Austrian military brig, the actor and former California governor said Friday.

He was 18 and serving a mandated year with the army in his native Austria in the mid-1960s when he snuck out of camp for the Junior Mr. Europe contest in Germany, Schwarzenegger told a meeting of TV critics.

He won the contest but also earned two or three days in the army jail, Schwarzenegger said. But military officials felt "uncomfortable" and he was released, he said.

Schwarzenegger, 65, is the subject of a new ESPN Films documentary, "Arnold's Blueprint," set to debut Sept. 26 on the ESPN website Grantland.com. It's one of a series of short documentaries that will be available online.

AP

Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, left, the subject of a forthcoming ESPN short film, answers a question as the film's co-director Michael Zimbalist looks on during the ESPN Films "30 for 30 Shorts" TCA panel discussion at the Beverly Hilton hotel on Friday, Aug. 3, 2012 in Beverly Hills, Calif.

His army superiors ended up supporting his bodybuilding efforts, he said: They created a makeshift gym for him and helped him get the food he needed to pack on 25 pounds of muscle in a year.

Schwarzenegger, who went on to parlay titles including Mr. Olympia and Mr. Universe into a Hollywood career, said his drive to be an athlete helped him during his seven-year tenure as governor that ended in 2011.

When he began pursuing bodybuilding as a youth, he recalled, his parents dismissed his activities as self-indulgent and suspect.

But "I had a very clear vision of where I wanted to go," Schwarzenegger said, including America and movie stardom.

When he encountered resistance to his political goals, he had the ability to ignore cries of "no, no, no, it's impossible," he said.

"I never saw a `no' as a `no.' I always heard `yes,'" he said, speaking to the Television Critics Association at the final session of the group's summer meeting.

Schwarzenegger, who has resumed his post-Sacramento acting career, is starring with Sylvester Stallone and Bruce Willis in the newly released "The Expendables 2."

Renowned Romanian pianist Ursuleasa dead at 33

BERLIN (AP)—Internationally renowned Romanian pianist Mihaela Ursuleasa has been found dead in her apartment in the Austrian capital. She was 33.

The musician's agent, Andreea Butucariu, said in a statement from Berlin Friday that Ursuleasa had died on Thursday from the effects of a cerebral hemorrhage and asked for her family's privacy to be respected. Police in Vienna confirmed the cause of death.

Butucariu told Romanian media that Ursuleasa had recently cancelled two concerts in the Romanian capital, Bucharest, on unspecified health grounds. Ursuleasa began playing the piano at 5 years old under the guidance of her Gypsy jazz musician father in then communist Romania. She obtained a grant to study in Vienna at 12, a year after communism collapsed.

She went on to play at New York's Carnegie Hall, with the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester in Berlin, with Orchestre National de France and also with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Romanian soprano Felicia Filip on Friday reminisced about Ursuleasa's debut. "In my mind's eye I see the child lost in the immensity of the piano," she told Romanian news agency Mediafax, referring to one of the pianist's first public performances. "I recall a child who couldn't reach the piano pedals," she said.

"Mihaela was a huge pianistic talent with great musical instincts," said Bill Capone, managing director of Arts Management Group, who represented her. "Her untimely passing is very tragic and left those who knew her as an artist and person deeply saddened."

Ursuleasa is survived by a 5-year-old daughter. In a statement on the pianist's website, Butucariu asked that promoters "that had invited Mihaela for the next months" contribute towards an account for her daughter.

He said her funeral would be held next week, but provided no details where she would be buried.

"Artists like Mihaela are those who give us hope, help us feel and make us understand that music, and also art, prevails above everything else; that it makes us advance as human beings," Butucariu said in the statement.

Lollapalooza lineup shuffled due to big storm

CHICAGO (AP)—A powerful thunderstorm rumbled into downtown Chicago on Saturday, forcing organizers to suspend the Lollapalooza music festival for more than two hours while the tens of thousands of concertgoers took shelter in parking garages.

The festivities were halted at 3:30 p.m. after the National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm warning because of a line of storms that was barreling down on the city from the west.

Organizers said it was unfortunate, but that safety was paramount. The estimated 100,000 concertgoers took the evacuation order in stride, for the most part, and calmly left Grant Park for nearby underground garages that were designated evacuation centers for the sold-out three-day event, which ends Sunday.

Crowds were allowed back into the venue after the worst of the storm had passed and police and concert organizers had inspected the park for any damage. It was only last summer that storm-driven wind gusts knocked down heavy stage rigging at the state fair in neighboring Indiana, killing seven people and injuring dozens of others.

Organizers posted a reshuffled Saturday lineup that added a half-hour to the night's events, which were scheduled to culminate with the Red Hot Chili Peppers performing on the main stage.

AP

Members of the crowd watch The Black Keys, unseen, play at Lollapalooza in Chicago's Grant Park on Friday, Aug. 3, 2012.

Princes: We had no clue queen would play in opener

LONDON (AP)—Even Prince William and Prince Harry were kept in the dark.

They told the BBC on Friday had no idea that their grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, would play a cameo role in the Olympic opening ceremony.

The sedate, octogenarian monarch surprised many Britons by appearing in a film played at the Danny Boyle-directed opener last week.

The short tongue-in-cheek film shows the queen being picked up by James Bond (played by Daniel Craig) at Buckingham Palace before being whisked aboard a helicopter and flown toward the Olympic Stadium.

As the film ended, two people leapt from a helicopter above the stadium, suggesting that the queen herself was floating down to open the games.

An Internet video of the queen-James Bond piece has been widely viewed.

AP

Britain's Prince William, left, and Prince Harry talk while watching track cycling at the velodrome during the 2012 Summer Olympics, Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012, in London.

Tyson says he's used to putting life on stage

NEW YORK (AP)—Pounding out the details of his personal life on a Broadway stage doesn't seem to faze Mike Tyson. The former heavyweight champ says that's what he's used to doing, "and at least now I don't have to go to hospital every time."

The 46-year old Tyson is appearing in the one-man show, "Mike Tyson Undisputed Truth." Directed by Spike Lee, the nearly two-hour show chronicles Tyson's life from childhood and his early boxing career to his public divorce from Robin Givens and his time spent in prison. He even talks about an incident with Brad Pitt.

"I'm just joking and stuff. I'm not mad at anyone. I hope he gives me a damn job," Tyson said when asked about the incident. The boxer spoke to The Associated Press Thursday, the same day as the show's opening.

AP

This image released by Starpix shows, from left, former boxer Mike Tyson, his wife Kiki Tyson and director Spike Lee posing backstage after the curtain call for the opening night of "Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth," Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012 at the Longacre Theatre in New York.

Lee chimed in: "He asked for a job."

Lee, famous for chronicling stories about Brooklyn in such films as "Crooklyn," "She's Gotta Have It," and the upcoming "Red Hook Summer," feels this work adds nicely to the collection.

"You can't get more Brooklyn than Mike Tyson. And if you remember the film, `Do the Right Thing,' the great Robin Harris (playing Sweet Dick Willie) had many references to Mike. And the side of Sal's Famous Pizzeria we painted a mural, Brooklyn's Finest: Mike Tyson, so this is history," Lee said.

While Tyson's life has been tumultuous at times, the boxer says he can deal with telling intimate details to a room full of strangers simply because "it's a job to be done."

"Even though it's real, it's not real. It's an illusion," Tyson says.

Serena Williams stars in new NFL gear ads

AP

This advertising image released by the NFL shows Serena Williams wearing a Miami Dolphins jersey.

NEW YORK (AP)—Football fans will soon be pulling out their jerseys, but a few have gotten a jump on the season: Serena Williams, Melania Trump and Condoleezza Rice are among the NFL fans who'll be appearing in ads promoting team-themed apparel and gear next week in a campaign called "It's My Team."

And these outfits aren't just for game day. There are fitted blazers, burn-out T-shirts and earrings.

In her ad, Williams—who is not only a fan but also a limited partner in the Miami Dolphins—wears her colors in a graphic T-shirt paired with a dressy little black jacket. The image makes its debut in September magazines.

"Forty-five percent of fans are female and that continues to grow," says Tracey Bleczinski, vice president of NFL consumer products. "We do have something for everyone, and this campaign aims to communicate that if you are living and wearing football, you can do it every day, year-round."

After the photo shoot, Olympic swimmer and TV host Summer Sanders wore her outfit home, Bleczinski says, and that's just what the NFL wanted. What fan gear to wear is something that Suzanne Johnson, philanthropist wife of New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, finds herself discussing a lot.

"The female fan looks not only at the game, but the whole stadium experience," she says. "I have girlfriends that come with me to games on a weekly basis, and they'll ask, `What are you wearing?'"

She adds, "Women are still women."

Johnson says she thinks female interest in football is on the rise because women like to be part of a group and a stadium—or even a family room filled with fans—has a feeling of camaraderie that adults going about their own busy lives don't often get.

Plus, NFL gear can be a conversation starter.

"I always tell single girls, you're more approachable if you're wearing your Jets clothes," Johnson says.

Stevie Wonder files for divorce after 11 years

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stevie Wonder is ending his 11-year marriage to fashion designer Kai Millard Morris.

The 62-year-old musician cites irreconcilable differences in papers filed Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court. He filed the documents under his real name, Stevland Morris.

Wonder and Millard were married Sept. 1, 2001. According to court documents, they separated in October 2009. They have two sons, 10-year-old Kailand and 7-year-old Mandla. Wonder is seeking joint legal and physical custody of the two boys and agrees to pay spousal support to his former wife.

AP

In this May 9, 2012 file photo, Stevie Wonder performs during the "In Performance at the White House" in the East Room of the White House in Washington, honoring songwriters Burt Bacharach and Hal David.

Ferrell 'saddened' by Stewart-Pattinson breakup

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kristen Stewart is a "trampire."

So says comedian Will Ferrell, who broke down in (crocodile) tears over the breakup between Stewart and her "Twilight" co-star and real-life boyfriend Robert Pattinson during an interview Thursday on Conan O'Brien's show.

Ferrell was on "Conan" to promote his upcoming movie, "The Campaign," when O'Brien noted that the funnyman seemed upset.

Ferrell initially demurred, then went on to explain how Stewart cheated on Pattinson. Photos of the actress snuggling with her married "Snow White and the Huntsman" director surfaced last week.

When O'Brien insisted that things will be fine, Ferrell shouted, "It's not going to be fine, ever!"

"She's a trampire, that's what she is," Ferrell said.

Is it ever going to be fine? Representatives for Stewart and Pattinson did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Nets? Never. Spike Lee will stick with the Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)—He's New York's most prominent Knicks fan. But he's also a proud son of Brooklyn.

So would Spike Lee ever consider switching teams and rooting for the Brooklyn Nets?

No, no and no.

That's what Lee tells The New York Times (http://nyti.ms/MjVoeI) in an interview discussing his split loyalties between the Knicks and the beloved hometown borough that has been the setting for many of his films.

The Nets will play their first games in Brooklyn this fall, after moving from New Jersey.

It's far from the first time Lee has vowed to go to his grave a Knicks fan.

Last year he tried to hammer home the point on Twitter, saying that anyone who thinks he's switching to the Nets "is on crack, meth and malt liquor" (http://bit.ly/pmVGdD).

Son enjoying free ride has little reason to get up and go

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I need some advice about my girlfriend "Vivian's" son. "Kirk" is 22 and very immature. I love Vivian with all my heart, and I get upset when Kirk verbally abuses her. I try not to say anything because I feel it's not my place because he's not MY son.

Kirk hasn't worked in two years. He walks into his mother's house and takes whatever he wants —food, toothpaste, rolls of toilet paper, etc. He won't help her around the house, mow the lawn or wash a dirty dish he has used. And he lives rent-free in one of the duplexes his mother bought for additional income.

Vivian is a wonderful woman who is hard-working and self-supporting. She's also tired of her son's lack of motivation and how he takes her for granted.

I know a mother doesn't want to see her child go hungry, but where do you draw the line?

FED UP IN TEXAS

DEAR FED UP: Vivian should draw the line at the front door. By tolerating her son's disrespectful behavior she is doing him no favors. Unless he actively looks for a job, stops helping himself to her property and does something to repay her generosity (mowing the lawn and washing the dishes he uses would be a good start), she should stop "helping" him. What she's doing is crippling her son, who may be in need of counseling.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Please inform your readers not to invite people to bridal showers if they're not invited to the wedding.

I was invited to a shower and accidentally found out I wasn't being invited to the wedding. At first I was upset, but imagine how mortified I felt when I was told that if some of the invited guests sent back a refusal, THEN I would be invited to the wedding. I would have preferred to have been told, "I'd love to have you, but we just can't afford to invite all of the lovely people we would like."

I know this isn't the first time you've mentioned something like this in your column, but it amazes me how insensitive people can be.

SECOND STRING, BRADFORD, MASS.

DEAR SECOND STRING: Being told we are at the top of the "B" list makes us feel really wanted, doesn't it? If people would take just a moment to consider how their words and deeds affect others, what a kinder, gentler world this would be.

P.S. For the record: People who will not be invited to the wedding should not be asked to attend a bridal shower.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My divorced daughter stretched her food budget to "surprise" me with my favorite double cheese pizza with black olive topping. After everyone had eaten, I eyed the leftovers and decided to help out by gorging on the extra slices.

My subsequent gallstone attack did not hurt as much as my oldest granddaughter's query: "Grandpa, why did you force yourself to finish the pizza? Mommy promised us it would be our snack tomorrow."

Gluttonous guests—and that includes me—should not assume that "leftovers" are fair game. The hostess may have plans for them.

S.G. IN LAGUNA WOODS

DEAR S.G.: How true. Wisdom—and good manners—dictate that nothing should be taken from the host's kitchen without permission. I have received more than one letter over the years describing a refrigerator raid in which the guest wound up with a sandwich loaded with what turned out to be pet food.

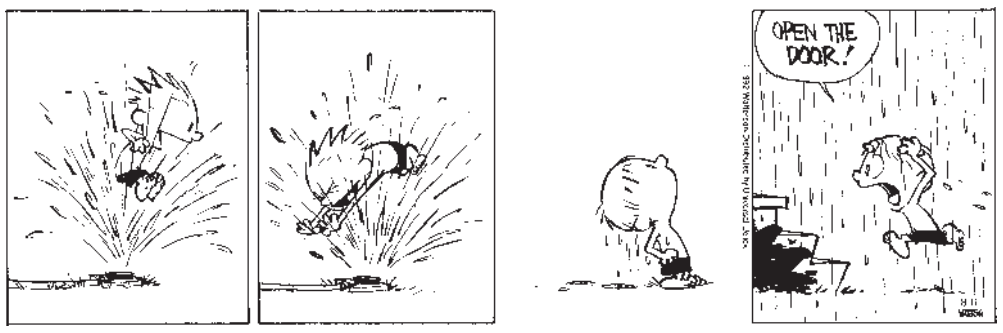
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

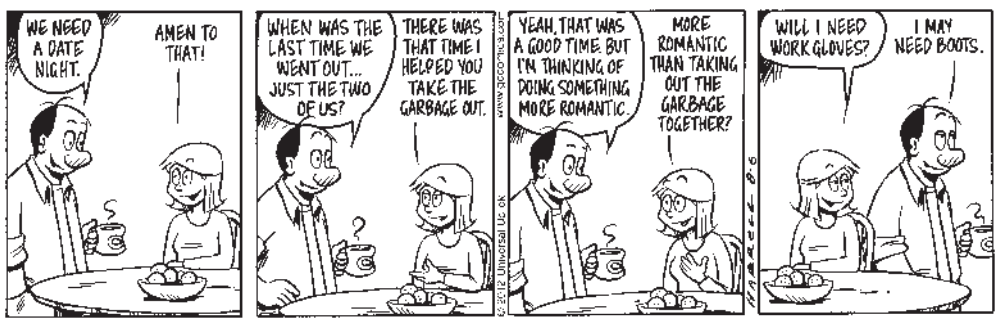


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

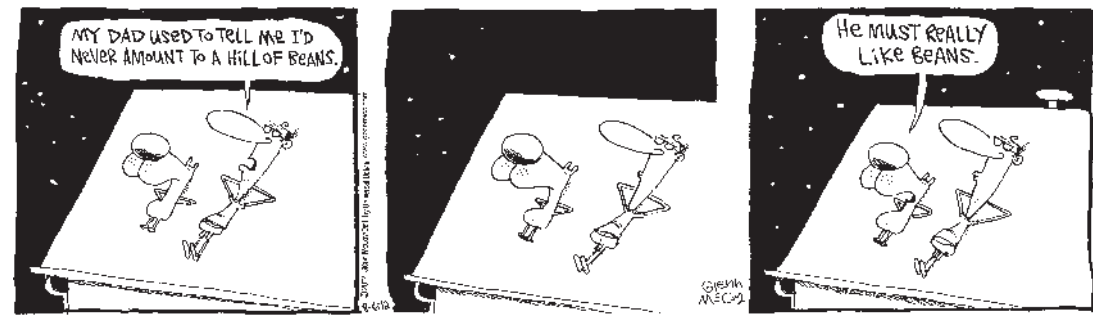
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WE NEED A DATE NIGHT.
AMEN TO THAT!
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE WENT OUT... JUST THE TWO OF US?
THERE WAS THAT TIME I HELPED YOU TAKE THE GARBAGE OUT.
YEAH, THAT WAS A GOOD TIME BUT I'M THINKING OF DOING SOMETHING MORE ROMANTIC.
MORE ROMANTIC THAN TAKING OUT THE GARBAGE TOGETHER?
WILL I NEED WORK GLOVES?
I MAY NEED BOOTS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

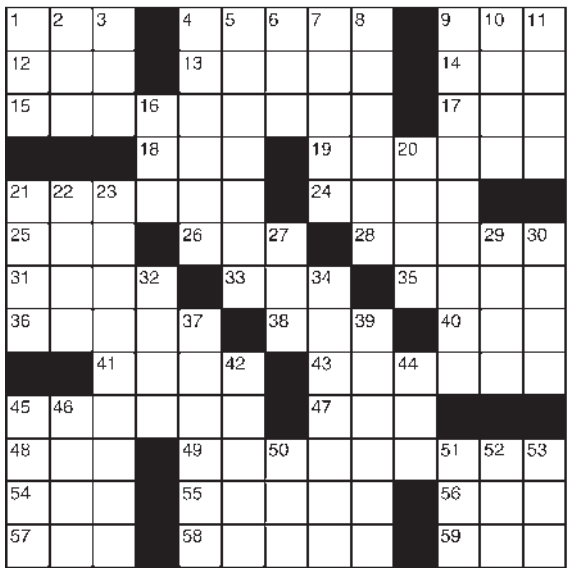
ACROSS
1 Health resort
4 Actor Lorenzo
9 Massachusetts cape
12 Paintings et al.
13 Put into law
14 Japanese sash
15 Captain's subordinate
17 Pal of Larry and Curly
18 "— Got a Secret"
19 Enlarged a hole
21 1964 Burton/O'Toole movie
24 Indonesian island
25 From — Z
26 Pigpen
28 French subway
31 Addition results
33 Hearing organ
35 Ladder rung, e.g.
36 Shout-out from the bleachers
38 Small barrel
40 Corrode
41 Caspian feeder
43 Cavalry weapons
45 Straight, for short
47 Actress Hagen
48 Rd.
49 Fuss
54 Pitch
55 Wickerwork willow
56 That girl
57 Type measures
58 Transmits
59 Cut the grass

DOWN
1 Pouch
2 In favor of
3 $ dispenser
4 Fall fallers
5 Bening or Funicello
6 Crazy
7 Tart in tone or temper
8 Rill
9 Group of legislators
10 Reed instrument
11 Conked out
16 "Ferd'nand" cartoonist
20 Pub orders
21 Wild party
22 Needle case
23 Many subway riders
27 Tibetan bovine
29 Back
30 Chooses
32 Aching
34 Picked up where you left off
37 Former Philippine leader
39 Crocs' kin
42 Slack
44 Cudgel
45 Loathe
46 Actress — Rachel Wood
50 60 secs.
51 Doctrine
52 Discoverer's call
53 Fresh

Solution time: 24 mins.

H	A	Y	■	M	I	F	F	■	S	T	O	A
I	R	E	■	O	D	O	R	■	C	R	A	B
F	I	T	■	S	E	R	E	■	R	I	T	E
I	D	I	O	T	S	D	E	L	I	G	H	T
■	■	■	U	L	T	■	Z	I	P	■	■	■
J	U	I	C	Y	■	D	E	N	■	Y	A	P
I	T	C	H	■	C	U	R	■	F	O	C	I
B	E	E	■	B	O	G	■	R	O	U	T	E
■	■	■	S	U	M	■	T	W	O	■	■	■
F	O	O	L	S	P	A	R	A	D	I	S	E
A	L	D	A	■	L	O	A	N	■	F	U	H
L	I	E	N	■	E	N	I	D	■	F	R	O
L	O	S	T	■	X	E	N	A	■	Y	E	S

Saturday's answer 8-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vera Farmiga, 39; Geri Halliwell, 40; M. Night Shyamalan, 42; Michelle Yeoh, 50.

Happy Birthday: Take another look at some of your ideas and you will find a way to bring the past, present and future together to form a new plan that can help you advance mentally, spiritually or financially. Expand your interests and engage in attractive prospects. Don't walk away from the unique or unusual. Embrace new beginnings. Your numbers are 2, 6, 14, 20, 24, 36, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Let the competition begin. You are ready for whatever comes your way and should engage in as much personal and professional interaction as possible. Challenge someone special and a stronger bond will develop. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Avoid being caught wasting time. You may not feel like engaging in certain responsibilities, but the sooner you put things behind you, the better off you'll be. Don't argue when all that's required is taking care of business. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Check out what everyone else is giving before you promise to contribute. Keeping things equal will also help you avoid becoming disgruntled. Plan to socialize or get out and meet people who share your interests. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You will encounter creative opportunities if you participate. An unusual encounter will bring back memories you've been avoiding. Face your past so you can put your baggage behind you and move forward. Don't be shy; say what you think. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Embrace change and try new things. Helping others or an organization you believe in will lead to fabulous connections that can help you make life-altering decisions. Honest communication will resolve issues that have held you back in the past. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll get far more accomplished if you work alone and at your own speed. An idea you have or a service you can provide has potential to become a prosperous venture. Don't let emotional problems rob you of a chance to excel. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): An opportunity to gather valuable information and support is apparent, but you must do the legwork. Don't let laziness be your downfall. Travel will lead to advancement and give you a different perspective on moving forward. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You must be careful whom you trust, especially with secret information or financial dealings. Use your imagination, but don't overspend. Stick to what you know. This is not the time to explore new avenues; tying up loose ends is what's needed. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Push your way into the future with gusto. Good fortune can be yours if you utilize your skills to improve your lifestyle and financial future. Put more emphasis on money and forming partnerships. Consider services with a growing demand. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stay away from anyone who wants to burden you with responsibilities. Protect what you have and move forward in a practical manner with no regrets. Avoid involvement in an unorthodox lifestyle associated with emotional manipulation or guilt. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look at your options. Strive to get out of repetitious situations that lead nowhere. A good budget along with your skills and knowledge will lead to a better future. An agreement with someone you love can help your situation. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Watch who you choose to be involved with. Personal problems will develop if you rely on someone to help out. A hobby will ease your stress and can lead to additional income. Use intuition when dealing with an emotional relationship. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a go-getter. You are smart and entertaining, and you attract positive attention.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7				4	6	5	
6						7		3
		9		1			2	
			9		4			8
5		4				1		6
9			3		1			
	2			3		8		
1		7						9
	9		1	8			4	

Difficulty Level ★ 8/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

4	5	8	3	9	1	7	6	2
1	7	9	2	8	6	4	5	3
2	3	6	5	4	7	8	1	9
7	6	4	9	2	8	5	3	1
8	9	1	7	3	5	2	4	6
3	2	5	6	1	4	9	8	7
9	1	7	8	5	3	6	2	4
5	4	2	1	6	9	3	7	8
6	8	3	4	7	2	1	9	5

Difficulty level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE IS 75 YEARS OLD Solution: 8 letters

E	S	V	L	B	H	L	A	I	R	O	M	E	M	S
G	T	I	N	A	E	C	O	C	I	F	I	C	A	P
N	R	E	L	N	N	A	Ⓡ	Ⓞ	Ⓐ	Ⓓ	A	N	R	E
A	A	W	R	L	O	E	M	A	S	L	F	D	I	D
R	U	L	A	C	E	I	S	S	I	R	L	L	N	E
O	S	O	G	T	N	T	S	F	A	R	A	F	C	S
P	S	B	A	A	E	O	O	N	O	L	I	C	O	T
E	S	M	L	Y	S	R	C	W	E	R	L	M	U	R
N	D	Y	F	T	N	I	N	O	E	P	O	O	N	I
B	A	S	E	I	S	D	D	W	N	R	S	S	T	A
F	O	E	A	C	S	E	O	G	R	N	S	U	Y	N
E	L	L	O	E	S	R	I	O	M	A	E	A	S	S
R	M	B	T	O	K	S	W	S	P	A	N	C	R	K
R	A	A	L	S	E	E	R	U	T	C	U	R	T	S
Y	G	C	N	D	I	R	G	W	O	N	D	E	R	S

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Last Saturday's Answer: Celebrity

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Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF: SCOTTIE TYLER SAENKUNG SECHARRAIMUL, An Incompetent **By:** **SUTHEERA SAENKUNG,** Petitioner	**FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12 - 0119** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Sutheera Saenkung, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 23rd day of August, 2012 at 10:30 A.M. or as soon as thereafter in Courtroom 205A.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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LeBron spoils Lithuania's upset bid

LONDON (AP)—It's a collection of superstars with MVP trophies, scoring titles and all sorts of impressive statistics. And it wasn't until the U.S. men's basketball team was finally challenged that it found its leader.

Lithuania was on the verge of an Olympic-sized upset when LeBron James made four big baskets in the final four minutes Saturday, finishing with 20 points in a 99-94 victory that kept the Americans unbeaten but cracked their aura of invincibility.

There's one player who has done everything for the star-studded United States. Not surprisingly, it's the NBA MVP.

Through three games, James did little things that went unnoticed—played center, ignited runs and deferred to his teammates—as the Americans cruised to easy wins. James had more time to rest than shoot.

Eventually a close game came, and James seized it.

"He's more important than me," coach Mike Krzyzewski said recently.

More than any of his teammates, either.

James did it all for the Miami Heat during the playoffs and now is taking on the same responsibility for the Americans.

Guard the opposing center? Fine.

Pass the ball to the open shooters? No problem.

"I'm not sure there's ever been an international player like LeBron," Krzyzewski said. "LeBron can actually play and defend all five positions, he's incredibly unique. It's really a luxury to have him."

AP

United States' LeBron James (6) shoots against Lithuania during their men's preliminary round basketball game at the 2012 Summer Olympics on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, in London.

Being a willing defender or passer is great, and James is one of the best in the world at both. A team going for a gold medal sometimes needs more, and James couldn't wait to provide it.

"I've been kind of doing everything else, which I'm OK with," James said. "I'm here to do all the little things, do whatever this team needs, especially from Coach K's perspective, but like I told you guys, I can also score. I'm blessed and happy that I was able to make a few buckets down the stretch."

James came in averaging just 6.7 points, content to let Carmelo Anthony and Kevin Durant handle the scoring load. Besides, he had other things to do, such as occasionally defend post players whenever Tyson Chandler, the only center on the U.S. roster, was out of the game.

James was averaging 5.7 assists, tops on the team. But in jeopardy of losing in the Olympics for the first time in eight years, he kept the ball for himself.

The Americans' lead was one before he made a 3-pointer, then dunked after a turnover for a 92-86 advantage with 3:41 to play. He made two more baskets in the final 2:10, giving him nine of the Americans' final 12 points.

And to think, people question his play in the clutch.

"For those people who say he doesn't produce at the end of ballgames, for us he's produced always at the end of the ballgame," Krzyzewski said. "He was terrific, really made plays that needed to be made both offensively and defensively in the last three minutes and you can't practice those situations. You can put them up on the scoreboard, but it's not the same game pressure and to see him respond like that in this setting, that's one of the great positives from the game."

The U.S. (4-0) had looked nearly unbeatable in thrashing Nigeria 156-73 on Thursday night while breaking several records. But the Americans were reminded that the path to a gold medal is loaded with traps and Lithuania nearly sprang one.

"You want to get tested," James said. "The best teams want to be tested."

James hadn't really done much scoring since the Americans left the United States. In one of the only other times they've been challenged in recent years, they trailed by 10 points against Brazil before James brought them back, scoring 30 points in an 80-69 exhibition victory in Washington.

Serena beats Sharapova in gold medal match

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—As Serena Williams stood atop the medal podium, her career Golden Slam is completed thanks to an Olympic rout, the gusty wind on Centre Court blew the U.S. flag off its pole midway through the national anthem.

Old Glory came to rest in front of the Royal Box.

"It was probably flying to come hug me because the flag was so happy," Williams said.

Williams wore a smile herself after she became only the second woman to achieve a Golden Slam, winning the most lopsided women's final in Olympic history Saturday by beating Maria Sharapova 6-0, 6-1.

The victory completed a remarkable run of domination by the No. 4-seeded Williams, who lost only 17 games in six matches en route to her first singles gold medal. She went 13-0 this summer at the All England Club, where she won her fifth Wimbledon title a month ago.

It took the No. 3-seeded Sharapova 45 minutes to win a game, and by then she trailed 6-0, 3-0. Williams dominated with her serve and repeatedly blasted winners from the baseline, taking a big swing with almost every stroke despite the windy conditions on Centre Court.

Williams said the tournament was the best she has played from start to finish.

"I was so focused here," she said. "I remember I was serving and I was thinking: 'Serena, this is your best chance to win a gold medal. You're at Wimbledon, you're on grass, you play great on grass, pull it together, just win this.' And that's what I thought about."

The career Golden Slam was first achieved by Steffi Graf, who did it when she won at the Olympics in 1988 after sweeping all four major titles.

"Growing up watching her, I always liked her," Williams said. "Having a chance to be mentioned in the same name—I always thought, 'OK, one person I'll never be mentioned in the same name is Steffi Graf. She's done everything.'"

Williams can add the gold medal to her 14 Grand Slam singles championships, the most of any active woman. She's the first player to achieve a Golden Slam in both singles and doubles.

And she's not done in London. Williams and her sister Venus, pursuing their third gold in doubles, beat Maria Kirilenko and Nadia Petrova of Russia 7-5, 6-4 in the semifinals. Their opponents Sunday will be Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka of the Czech Republic.

Sharapova completed a career Grand Slam in June by winning the French Open, but Williams beat her for the eighth consecutive time. The most one-sided previous women's final was in 1920, when Suzanne Lenglen of France beat Dorothy Holman of Britain 6-3, 6-0.

Top-seeded Victoria Azarenka of Belarus won the bronze by beating No. 14-seeded Maria Kirilenko of Russia 6-3, 6-4. Sharapova's loss allowed Azarenka to retain the No. 1 ranking.

Two hours after Williams completed her Golden Slam, twins Mike and Bob Bryan of the United States achieved the same feat, beating Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Michael Llodra of France to win the gold in doubles, 6-4, 7-6 (2).

Federer vs Murray

Roger Federer has "been around the block," as he puts it. The Swiss star has played for major titles, for the record books, for a place in tennis history.

On Sunday, he plays for Olympic gold in singles. That's new even for him.

The final will be a rematch of the game the top-ranked player won on the same court in the Wimbledon final a month ago. His opponent, British player Andy Murray, is hoping the novelty of the situation will give him a slim advantage. Federer is also trying to complete a career Golden Slam - all four major titles and an Olympic win.

"It's so rare for him to be in a position where he's trying to do something new because he's achieved so much in tennis. I hope that will even things out a little bit," said Murray, whose head-to-head record against Federer is 8-8. "It's going to be a tough match."

Federer acknowledged being emotionally drained after his semifinal win Friday over Juan Martin del Potro, the longest best-of-three set match in Open history at four hours and 26 minutes.

But few believe that the match will detract from his performance on Sunday on a court where he has celebrated so many triumphs.

South Korea defeats Britain in shootout, 5-4

CARDIFF, Wales (AP)—If the sight of a unified Britain football team competing in its first Olympics since 1960 took football fans in the host nation by surprise, the manner of the its exit surely didn't.

Like so many England teams before it, the British side lost in a quarterfinal penalty shootout on Saturday night, meaning South Korea will advance to its first Olympic semifinal, where it will meet tournament favorite Brazil.

The defeat also signaled the last appearance for now of a unified British football team.

No one expects a "Team GB" will play in the games again, such is the opposition from football associations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, which fear losing their place in global football. It only played this time because Britain is hosting the event.

Ki Sung-yueng scored the winning penalty after Daniel Sturridge missed the fifth spot kick for Britain, resulting in a 5-4 defeat. The score was 1-1 after regulation time, and neither team scored in 30 minutes of extra time.

Playing in front of 70,000 fans, South Korea's Ji Dong-won opened the scoring in the 29th minute with a long-range shot.

Aaron Ramsey equalized with a penalty six minutes later. He could have given Britain a 2-1 lead not long after when Britain was awarded another penalty, but his shot was saved.

Sturridge, who plays for Chelsea in the English Premier League and was one of the sharpest British players of the night, paused for a second in his run-up to his left-footed shot, then kicked the ball toward the right side of the goal. goalkeeper Lee Bum-young guessed correctly, diving to punch the ball away.

That left it up to Ki to give South Korea the victory. The forward, who plays for Celtic of the Scottish Premier League, shot powerfully into the top left hand corner of the net, and Britain's hopes of an Olympic medal in the sport it invented were over.

The football defeat was one of the sole disappointments on a super Saturday that saw the British team win six gold medals in athletics, rowing and track cycling.

"The first day we got together as a group we practiced penalties," said Britain's coach Stuart Pearce. "Daniel (Sturridge) got the winner three days ago that got us out of the group stages, and today he misses the penalty. You have days like that, but he will benefit from it if my experience is anything to go by."

Pearce was likely referring to the penalty he missed against Germany in the 1990 World Cup semifinal.

South Korean coach Hong Myung-bo said he knew English teams had problems with penalty shootouts and hence had a "strong belief" his team would prevail.

"The only thing that I told them was to keep calm and kick the ball with confidence," he said. "I asked the players to make it very difficult for (Britain) to play its own game."

For the English players on Britain's unified squad - and coach Pearce - going out of a major competition on penalties shouldn't be a surprise. England's penalty record stands at six defeats and one victory from seven shoot-outs at major tournaments, including a quarterfinal exit last June from the European Championships.

‘Blade Runner’ makes semis of 400m race

LONDON (AP)—It began with a smile at the starting line.

Moments later, Oscar Pistorius took off and the click-click-clicking of carbon on the track was all but drowned out by the 80,000 fans on hand to watch him make history Saturday. The first amputee to compete in track at the Olympics, Pistorius cruised past an opponent or two in the backstretch of his 400-meter heat, and by the end, the “Blade Runner” was coasting in for a stress-free success.

Typical. Except this time, it was anything but that.

“I’ve worked for six years ... to get my chance,” said the South African, who finished second and advanced to Sunday night’s semifinals. “I found myself smiling in the starting block. Which is very rare in the 400 meters.”

Yes, this sun-splashed day at Olympic Stadium was a good one for Pistorius, a double-amputee who runs on carbon-fiber blades and whose fight to get to this point has often felt more like a marathon than a sprint. He walked out of the tunnel, looked into the stands, saw his friends and family there—including his 89-year-old grandmother, who was carrying the South African flag.

“It’s very difficult to separate the occasion from the race,” Pistorius conceded.

But he figured it out. He finished in a season-best time of 45.44 seconds, crossing the line and looking up at the scoreboard, then covering his face with his hands when he saw the capital “Q” - for qualifier - go up by his name.

AP

South Africa’s Oscar Pistorius, left, and Jamaica’s Rusheen McDonald race in a men’s 400-meter heat during the athletics competition at the Olympic Stadium at the 2012 Summer Olympics, London, Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012.

“Couldn’t have hoped for anything better,” he said.

The 25-year-old runner was born without fibulas and his legs were amputated below the knee before he was a year old. His is one of those stories that is every bit as much about the journey—one part dramatic, another part inspiring and yet another part controversial - as the final result.

“I know Oscar was the protagonist in the race,” said Luguelin Santos of the Dominican Republic, who actually won the heat by .4 but went virtually unnoticed. “But I love him. He’s a good racer.”

Erison Hurtault of Dominica, who trained with Pistorius in South Africa, agreed.

“One thing I can say about Oscar is he’s an incredibly hard worker,” Hurtault said. “I’m glad to see him out here. I’m glad he’s getting a chance to finally compete and hopefully something emerges out of everyone else’s mind.”

Pistorius’ race, of course, resonated beyond sports and beyond London.

The runner’s father, Henk, and Gerry Versfeld, the surgeon who amputated Oscar’s legs, watched the heat at a restaurant in Johannesburg with some friends. The father and the doctor hugged after the race and there were tears in Henk Pistorius’ eyes.

“To now stand on the pinnacle of where you strived and you hoped and you dreamed to be must be an amazingly emotional feeling for him,” he said. “I feel compassion and pride.”

Pistorius is an accomplished runner, with four Paralympic gold medals, but he waged a long fight to run in the Olympics against able-bodied opponents.

After dozens of hearings in front of hundreds of men and women in suits charged with the task of deciding whether the blades gave Pistorius an unfair advantage - then getting his country’s Olympic committee to accept his qualifying times and enter him into the games - Pistorius finally got his chance.

He shook hands with his opponents, crouched into the blocks, flashed that smile and then - in so many ways, it was just another race, with Pistorius among the fastest men in it.

“You’ve got to understand that Oscar is an exceptional athlete,” said Versfeld, the surgeon. “I mean, he is an amazingly talented person. I think the chances that there are going to be many other athletes with disabilities, amputations, I think the chances that they will be able to compete with able-bodied athletes is not high and I really think we are seeing a one-off type situation.”

Hernandez blanks Yanks again with 2-hitter

NEW YORK (AP) — Felix Hernandez dominated the New York Yankees in their own ballpark again, pitching his third shutout of the season to lead the Seattle Mariners to a 1-0 win on a sunny, sticky Saturday.

Hernandez outpitched Hiroki Kuroda (10-8) in a duel of right-handers who hadn’t lost since June. Mike Carp hit an RBI single in the second inning for Seattle, which had its seven-game winning streak snapped the night before. The Yankees have lost 10 of 15.\

Twins 6, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Joe Mauer showed the patience of a good hitter and followed that with the skill of one of the game’s best.

Mauer hit a three-run homer with two outs in the top of the ninth inning, lifting the Minnesota Twins to a 6-4 comeback win over the Boston Red Sox.

Blue Jays 3, Athletics 1, 11 innings

In Oakland, California, David Cooper hit a tying homer in the ninth inning and Edwin Encarnacion scored on catcher George Kottaras’ throwing error in the 11th, lifting Toronto over Oakland.

Rangers 4, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Josh Hamilton drove in two runs and Scott Feldman won his sixth straight decision as Texas defeated Kansas City for its fourth victory in a row.

Feldman (6-6) worked into the eighth inning and became the first pitcher in 29 years to win six consecutive decisions after starting the season 0-6.

Tigers 6, Indians 1

In Detroit, Doug Fister appears poised to give the Detroit Tigers another late-season boost.

Fister retired his first 17 batters and then settled for a four-hitter in Detroit’s 6-1 victory over the fading Cleveland Indians.

Angels 6, White Sox 5

In Chicago, the Los Angeles Angels finally won a battle of the bullpens.

Albert Pujols homered again and Howie Kendrick hit a go-ahead single in the 10th inning that sent the Angels to a 6-5 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Reds 3, Pirates 0

In Cincinnati, Mat Latos pitched 7-1/3 scoreless innings and hit a two-run homer as the National League Central-leading Reds opened a three-game series against their closest pursuers with a 3-0 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Friday.

Nationals 7, Marlins 4, 1st Game
Marlins 5, Nationals 2, 2nd Game

In Washington, Josh Johnson outpitched Gio Gonzalez as Miami won the night game to split the doubleheader against Washington.

Johnson (7-7) improved to 9-1 lifetime against Washington.

Cardinals 9, Brewers 3

In St. Louis, rookie Joe Kelly broke a three-start losing streak and drove in the go-ahead run to help St. Louis beat Milwaukee.

Kelly (2-4) allowed three earned runs over 5 2-3 innings.

Diamondback 4, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Justin Upton hit his 100th career homer in Arizona’s win over Philadelphia.

Shortly after Upton connected off Phillies fill-in starter Kyle Kendrick (4-9), his older brother also hit his 100th homer over in the American League.

Dodgers 6, Cubs 1

In Los Angeles, Chad Billingsley won his third straight start since coming off the disabled list, leading Los Angeles past Chicago.

Billingsley (7-9) allowed one run in seven innings and struck out seven.

Padres 3, Mets 1

In San Diego, Carlos Quentin scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning when he knocked the ball out of the catcher’s glove, and San Diego held on to beat New York.

Clayton Richard (8-11) limited New York to one run in seven-plus innings.

Braves 4, Astros 1

In Atlanta, Tim Hudson gave up no earned runs in 7 1-3 innings to remain unbeaten in his career against Houston. Atlanta improved to 7-1 on its 10-game homestead.

Hudson (11-4) is 5-0 in seven career starts against the Astros.

Giants 16, Rockies 4

In Denver, Ryan Vogelsong pitched into the seventh inning as San Francisco routed Colorado.

The Giants gave Vogelsong (9-5) a 3-0 lead before breaking away in the seventh.

Furyk takes 1-shot lead into the final round

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Jim Furyk spent more time looking at the forecast than the leaderboard Saturday in the Bridgestone Invitational.

He’s not sure which one looks more favorable.

Furyk missed a couple of birdie chances early in the third round, and then was more than happy to settle for pars on a Firestone course that was firm, fast, bouncy and increasingly difficult. He made 16 pars, along with one birdie on the front nine and one bogey on the back nine, for an even-par 70 that felt like a hard day of work.

The scoreboard shows him with a one-shot lead over Louis Oosthuizen, who had a 68.

Furyk never paid much attention to the leaderboard, so he wasn’t aware that he had a five-shot lead at one point on the front nine. Oosthuizen made up ground with third birdies and no bogeys over the final 10 holes to get back into the picture.

Furyk, who was at 11-under 199, will be in the final group Sunday with Oosthuizen and Keegan Bradley, four strokes back after a 67. Starting times have been moved up for the final round because of a forecast of thunderstorms throughout the day.

And that’s where it gets a little tricky.

“All I’m going off is the weather forecast I got about six hours ago,” Furyk said. “I’ll be a tough day,” Furyk concluded.

Saturday was no picnic, mainly because Furyk and so many others were hitting it too far.

There was so much bounce in the greens—compared with how players were able to spin the ball back in the earlier rounds—that Furyk had 68 yards to the pin on the par-5 16th hole and realized he had no chance to keep it on the putting surface. Blame that on hitting a 6-iron 250 yards to lay up. “Didn’t plan for that,” he said.

Oosthuizen smashed a 431-yard drive on the 16th and hit 6-iron, knowing his third shot would be from the rough behind the green. He hit a beautiful pitch to 3 feet for his final birdie of the round. Masters champion Bubba Watson was proud to announce he hit driver and 8-iron on the 648-yard par 5.

Considering the plight of so many 54-hole leaders this year, Sunday could be up for grabs.

It could be a big day for Bradley, who needs a runner-up finish to move into the top eight in the Ryder Cup standings who qualify for the U.S. team after next week.

Rory McIlroy, with an outside chance of returning to No. 1 in the world if he were to win, had a 67 and joined Steve Stricker (68) at 6-under 204, five shots behind. Stricker looked to be closing in on the lead until he hooked his tee shot on the par-5 16th into the base of a pine tree and had to take a penalty shot to be able to make a swing.

Top-ranked Luke Donald also was chipping away, as he often does, until he hit a tree on the last for a bogey for a 71, falling seven shots back.

Tiger Woods broke par for the first time all week, though his 68 left him 11 shots behind on a Firestone course where he has won seven times. Woods is taking an optimistic view out of an otherwise drab week - at least he feels as though he’s hitting the ball well.

Fiesta's beach soccer tourney still accepting teams

Sign up is ongoing for Fiesta Resort & Spa's 3rd Annual Beach Soccer Tournament slated for Aug. 11.

Late registration will be open by 7:30am and games start 9:30am. Teams are requested to show up early so they have time to warm up and go over the rules with event organizers.

Entrance fee is $10 per player and at least five players are required on a team. The entrance fee includes coupons for drinks and beverages that players can use during the competition. Other beverages and food will also be available for sale during the event.

A raffle drawing will also take place with various prizes coming from sister sponsors Pacific Trading, Tan Holdings, Docomo Pacific, Rota Water, and Kanoa Resort.

This is an open tournament with virtually no roster restrictions. However any youth players under the age of 14 need to have a waiver signed by a parent.

The champion team will win $300 cash and individual trophies, while $200 and $100 plus trophies will go to the runners-up and third finishers, respectively.

For more information or to register early, contact Fiesta's Christy Villaflor at 234-7171 ext 1508. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

Rotary, BANMI leagues meeting tomorrow

The Basketball Association of the NMI is calling all coaches and individuals interested in competing in the 2012 Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League to attend a meeting tomorrow.

The meeting is set for 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

This year's Rotary caging will have competitions in the boys U15 and U19 age groups.

Coaches, team representatives, or any local businesses interested in contributing and being a part of the longest running youth basketball development program in the CNMI can contact BANMI development officer Elias Rangamar at 235-1775 or eli_rang@yahoo.com or BANMI representative Abner Venus at bulik29@yahoo.com for more information.

BANMI will also hold a meeting tomorrow at 5:30pm at the same venue for teams interested in joining the men's U25 and women's U19 and U15 leagues. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

REPEAT

From Page 28

front nine and was positioned in second place behind Jong Won Lee after completing the back side with an even 36 for a 1-under par 71.

Lee finished the first round with a 2-under par 70 to take the lead going into last Sunday's finale. In the second and last round yesterday, the Top 2 leaders ended up tied at the turn with identical cards of 109 before Sunga turned it on down the homestretch.

The Guam golfer fought from behind on the last nine holes of the tournament as eventual runner-up Jong Hoon Park surged to the front at the final turn.

Park shot a 1-under par 35 on the front nine yesterday and adding his 73 in the opening round, he had a 102 gross, going into the last nine holes. Sunga, who struggled with a 2-over 38 in the first nine holes, went steady in the clutch and jotted an even 36 in the last nine holes to earn yet another top prize. Sunga finished the two-day event with a 145 for a three-stroke win over his closest pursuer.

Park stumbled in the last nine holes with a 4-over 40 to settle for the runner-up honors after posting a two-day total of 148, while Lee (152) dropped to fifth place behind Geon-Ju Lee (150). Jin Woo Park (149), who scratched a 6-over par 78 in Day 1, stole third place with a crafty 1-under par 71 yesterday.

The Top 3 finishers in the tough Championship Flight received cash prizes with the champion getting $500, $400 to the runner-up, and $300 to the third placer. A digital camera and $100 DFS gift cards were given to the fourth and fifth finisher, respectively.

Cash prizes were also handed out to closest to the pin winners.

C Flight's Absalon Waki and B Flight's Richard Jones earned closest to the pin honors on the east course's hole No. 15. Waki rested his tee shot 5'7" from the cup last Saturday, while Richard Jones landed his mark just 4'10" away yesterday. The pair each won $500.

B Flight's Donn Dunlop took home new Samsung cell phone for winning the closest to the pin contest on the west course's hole No. 3, while C Flight's Nakatsuka Itsuo claimed the "most accurate drive through the trees" prize on the east's hole No. 9. Unfortunately, no golfer won the hole-in-one prizes (three brand new cars and over $200,000 in cash) this year.

TWO

From Page 28

to the sprinting Sacramento was too strong and went out to the baseline.

An unusual San Antonio error returned possession to the Hip Hop Thunder, but the latter failed to cash in on the opportunity when Boboy Sablan was fouled, faltered on his 3-point attempt, and missed the three free throws. San Antonio then grabbed the rebound and wasted the remaining 11.3 seconds to secure its second win in as many games.

Nevin Salem top-scored for San Antonio with his 16 points, while Cadiang and Adrian Palacios chipped in 12.

Mateo had 18 points for the Hip Hop Thunder, which also drew 12 markers apiece from Paraiso and Sacramento.

360 Church 76, San Roque 60

360 Church had a rousing debut last Friday after routing San Roque.

360 Church led from start to finish and kept the double-digit advantage after getting double figures from four players. Josh Lutrell paced 360 Church with his 20 points, Aaron Wood added 13 and Preston Basa and Mark Noel Puno logged 12 each.

Rommel Usi was the lone bright spot for San Roque, firing a game-high 21 markers.

Lutrell announced his entry to the league early, draining 8 points in the opening quarter to lift 360 Church to an 18-10 lead. Lutrell and company never looked back from thereon for their impressive first win.

Last Friday's second game between Playboy and MBI was rained-out at the 2:56 mark of the first quarter with the latter ahead, 14-4.

Meanwhile, results of Saturday's second game between Anjie's Boys and Gualo Rai will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition.

Friday's Game

360 Church 76 – Lutrell 20, Wood 13, M. Puno 12, Basa 12, Caputon 7, Lorfiny 6, Buenabajo 4, Buniag 2.

San Roque 60 – Usi 21, Salazar 12, Claveria 9, Odicta 7, Bautista 5, Johanes 3, Hidalgo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-10, 35-26, 53-40, 76-60.

Saturday's Game

Brgy. San Antonio 70 – Nev. Salem 16, Cadiang 12, Palacios 12, De Guzman 9, Aranda 5, Alegre 4, Tabora 2, Villanueva 2, Saturno 1.

Hip Hop Thunder 65 – D. Mateo 18, Sacramento 12, Paraiso 12, Vertudez 11, Norita 6, Sablan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 17-8, 40-35, 50-56, 70-65.

ORIOLES

From Page 28

be included in the field, however the official game schedule is still being formulated. The season is expected to continue again at the "Tan Ko" field this Saturday.

Saipan Major League Baseball Association is organizing the league with the help of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services.

Orioles 7, Dodgers 1

The Orioles moved around three early runs in the opening frame from a two-RBI single by AJ Lizama and an error that scored Jun Rabauliman. They went ahead, 4-0, in the second frame off another three hits.

The Dodgers managed their lone run in the top of the third from a two-out single by Palmerson Monkeya, but the Orioles took it back in the fifth after some sketchy pitching and added two more in the sixth frame before securing the last three outs.

Orioles' Carlos Rabauliman led off the sixth and reached after a dropped third strike and teammates Rayvan Uchau, Mike Muna, and Frankie Camacho all followed with base knocks.

The Dodgers were held to just five hits in the game. The Orioles belted 10 hits and drew seven bases on balls.

Rockies 6, Reds 2

It was a tight 2-1 game in favor of the home team Rockies after the very first inning, as Khobby Kaipat's early jitters on the mound overshadowed the RBI single of Ian Rogolifoi.

Kaipat settled down in the second inning, but was tapped by Lancaster Secharmedal after an RBI double by Rockies' second batter Ricardo Dela Cruz in the third.

Secharmedal was gashed for two runs before closing the frame and the count shifted to 6-1 after the fourth inning off an infield error.

The Reds' final run came in the top of the fifth inning, as Secharmedal tried to help his team's cause and although the lefty battled back through later innings, the Rockies remained steady at the helm for the win. The Rockies' Leroy Regis batted only 1-for-2, but scored three runs.

FITTING

From Page 28

pian called it a career on Saturday night with a fitting ending—a gold medal in the 4x100-meter medley relay at the London Games.

Phelps' totals in four Olympics: 22 medals, 18 golds, 51 races and 9,900 meters of swimming.

"I've been able to do everything that I wanted," he said. "If you can say that about your career, there's no need to move forward. Time for other things."

Having hung up his suit, cap and goggles for the last time, the 27-year-old from Baltimore is looking forward to the rest of his life.

He wants to travel and see places beyond the pools and hotel rooms of the last 12 years. His intended destinations include Australia and Europe. He wants to go cage diving among great white sharks in South Africa with Chad le Clos, the last man to beat him in the Olympics.

"I've been able to see so many amazing places in the world, but I've really never gotten to experience them," Phelps said.

There's golf and poker to be played, too. He can't wait for his hometown Ravens to start another football season, and don't be surprised if turns up to watch some soccer matches.

"He's a true sports fanatic," Debbie Phelps said.

And Mom knows best: "He needs time for himself first," she said.

Phelps still plans to be around the sport that made him rich and famous, saying, "I would like to try to take it to an even higher level than it is now."

He certainly left it on a high note.

Phelps regained the lead in the medley relay with his trademark butterfly stroke, then handed it over to freestyle anchor Nathan Adrian.

Adrian brought it home in 3 minutes, 29.35 seconds. Japan took the silver in 3:31.26 and Australia got the bronze in 3:31.68. The team of Matt Grevers, Brendan Hansen, Phelps and Adrian hugged it out before Phelps waved and smiled to the crowd.

Later, he grew reflective, saying, "I'm a lot more relaxed than I thought I'd be in this moment."

Warming up before his last race, Phelps called his coach over to the side of the practice pool. He thanked Bob Bowman for helping him win all those medals, a feat they accomplished together.

That private moment got to both of them.

"I said, 'My tears could hide behind my goggles. Yours are streaming down your face,'" Phelps said. "I wouldn't be here today without everything he's done for me. I love him to death."

Bowman said: "I'll never forget that as long as I live."

On a night when Phelps exited the world stage, Missy Franklin capped a brilliant Olympic debut by helping the U.S. win gold in the women's medley relay - with a world-record time, no less.

The 17-year-old high school student from Colorado gives the U.S. hope for the post-Phelps era, having won five medals in London, including four golds to match Amy Van Dyken at the 1996 Atlanta Games for the most by an American female swimmer. She swam seven events, the same as Phelps.

"I don't think his shoes will ever be filled. They're so huge," Franklin said. "Hopefully I can make little paths next to him."

The Americans dominated the medal count at the pool, finishing with 16 golds and 30 overall.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

OLYMPIC GAMES MEDAL TALLY

	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States	26	13	15	54
2	China	25	16	13	54
3	Great Britain	14	7	8	29
4	Russia	3	15	10	28
5	Japan	2	10	12	24
6	France	8	6	8	22
7	Germany	5	10	6	21
8	Australia	1	12	7	20
9	South Korea	9	3	5	17
10	Italy	5	5	3	13
11	Canada	1	3	6	10
12	Netherlands	3	1	4	8
13	New Zealand	3	0	4	7
14	Romania	1	4	2	7
15	Ukraine	2	0	4	6
16	Belarus	1	2	3	6
17	Brazil	1	1	4	6
18	Kazakhstan	5	0	0	5
19	North Korea	4	0	1	5
20	Cuba	2	2	1	5
21	Hungary	2	1	2	5
22	Denmark	1	2	2	5

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	62	44	.585	–
Baltimore	56	51	.523	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	56	51	.523	6 1/2
Boston	53	55	.491	10
Toronto	52	55	.486	10 1/2
Central Division				
Chicago	58	48	.547	–
Detroit	57	50	.533	1 1/2
Cleveland	50	57	.467	8 1/2
Minnesota	47	60	.439	11 1/2
Kansas City	44	62	.415	14
West Division				
Texas	63	43	.594	–
Oakland	58	49	.542	5 1/2
Los Angeles	58	50	.537	6
Seattle	51	58	.468	13 ½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	64	43	.598	–
Atlanta	61	46	.570	3
New York	53	55	.491	11 1/2
Miami	49	59	.454	15 1/2
Philadelphia	48	59	.449	16
Central Division				
Cincinnati	66	41	.617	–
Pittsburgh	60	46	.566	5 1/2
St. Louis	58	49	.542	8
Milwaukee	48	58	.453	17 1/2
Chicago	43	62	.410	22
Houston	36	72	.333	30 1/2
West Division				
San Francisco	58	49	.542	–
Los Angeles	58	50	.537	1/2
Arizona	55	52	.514	3
San Diego	45	64	.413	14
Colorado	38	67	.362	19

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Rain hampers outdoor games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The slow week became even slower with rain causing suspension of outdoor games on Saipan last week.

Just two days after the opening of the second edition of the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League, Monday's games at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court were called off due to rain. Freestyl and LD Prime were scheduled to slug it out in the first match, but failed to play in their debut games, while the second tiff of the night between Zhailas and Highway Express were also suspended.

Action in the DLX caging resumed last Wednesday with Blue Haus beating Mawati, 63-51, and Looban downing Yuichiro/Docomo, 64-58, to join opening day winners Brgy. San Antonio and Anjie's Boys.

In Friday's games, only the 360 Church and San Roque match was completed, while the Playboy-MBI duel was rained-out with over two minutes left in the first quarter.

Also affected by rain was the Docomo U17 and U25 caging. Only one game was finished last week with Shottas thumping R-Rebels, 41-30, in their U25 pairing.

A few games in the Saipan Major League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield were also affected by rain before the Tan Holdings Brewers managed to face the Aces last Tuesday and won, 5-4, to take the pennant championship.

Also clinching championship trophies were Your Balls and Sakudi, which beat Natibu and 670 Babes in the men's and women's finals of the Chamolinian Softball Association's slow-pitch league at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Over at the Pacific Islands Club hard court, some members of the CNMI Junior Tennis Team managed to have their last practice day last Friday before leaving for Fiji for the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships. The Commonwealth bets failed to train for two days last week due to rain, but returned to the PIC court one day before leaving for Fiji. Joining the squad is coach Jeff Race.

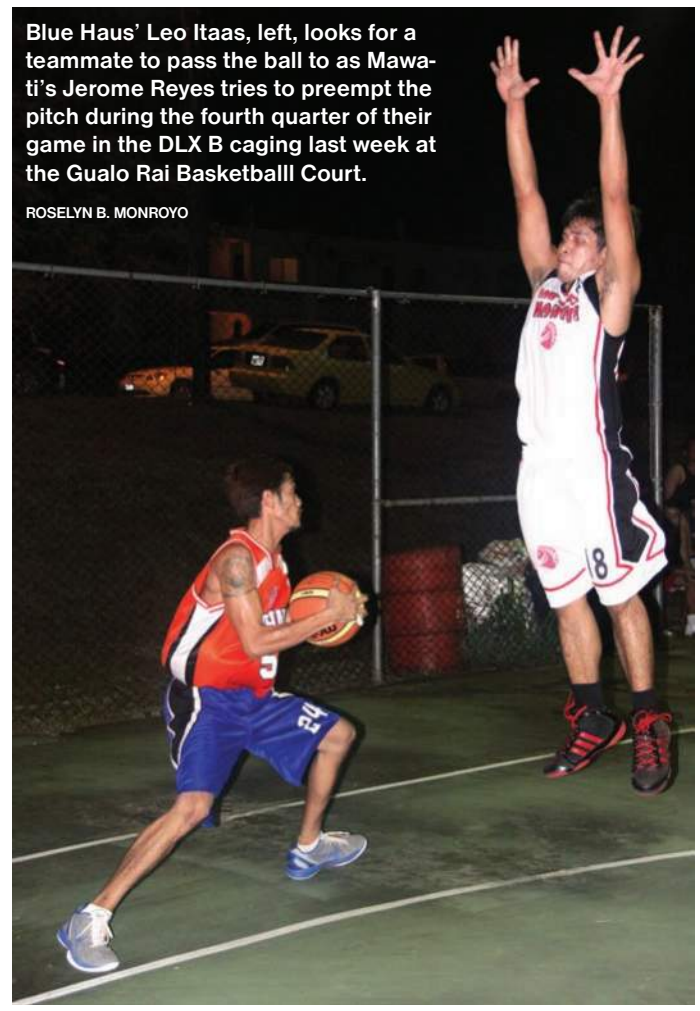
The 2012 Saipan Soccer School Summer Futsal League was not affected by rain as it is being played at the indoor TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai. Wild Bill's, Astig Futsal, Shirley's and IT&E continued to dominate their respective divisions after posting separate wins last week.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Natibu's Ton Benavente follows through on a nice hit late in their men's finals game against Your Ball in the Chamolinian Softball Association league last week at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hip Hop Thunder's Dan Mateo drives against Brgy. San Antonio's Jaymark De Guzman during their game in the DLX B league last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



Blue Haus' Leo Itaas, left, looks for a teammate to pass the ball to as Mawati's Jerome Reyes tries to preempt the pitch during the fourth quarter of their game in the DLX B caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketballl Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Mellow Yellow kick goes over the top goal post, as Shirley's goalie Angie Ito attempts for a catch during their women's game in the SSS futsal league last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Wild Bill's Jack Thoensaket, left, battles Go Green's Raphael Zapanta for possession during their men's game in the SSS futsal league last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

◄ CNMI junior tennis players enjoy a light moment at the Pacific Islands Club hard court before resuming their training session last Friday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TSL SPORTS COMPLEX

Activity Schedule for August 6, 2012

2012 Summer Soccer Camp

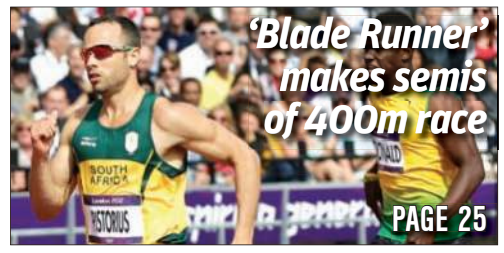
8:00 AM to 9:30 AM: U10 • 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM: U8

SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL

2012 Summer Futsal League

6:30 PM:	U18 Boys' Division	IT&E vs. Thundercats
7:30 PM:	Women's Division	Baked Girls vs. IT&E Awesome
8:30 PM:	Men's Division	Shirley's vs. IT&E

Saipan Tribune
Sports



Repeat winner in Tournament of Champions

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Guam golfer Louie Sunga, second right, accepts the Championship Flight prize package from Titan Imports' John Antenorcruz, second left, and DFS' Ben Babauta, right, and Marian Aldan-Pierce, during the awards ceremony for the 17th Annual Tournament of Champions yesterday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam golfer Louie Sunga reasserted his supremacy in the 17th Annual Tournament of Champions after winning the centerpiece Championship Flight over the weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The victory was Sunga's fifth in as many appearances in the annual tournament. He dominated five of the last six editions of the premier golf tournament in the CNMI.

"I love this course and I always look forward to it every year," said Sunga at the awards banquet yesterday. "Although I felt the heat from other golfers, I was very pleased overall with my performance."

Sunga acknowledged the soggy weather again this year, but admitted he was some what prepared for the conditions. He started his title defense last Saturday with a 1-under par 35 on the

See REPEAT on Page 26

Orioles, Rockies win debuts in Triple A

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Orioles and the Rockies came away victors in the opening day of the 18U Triple A Championship Youth Summer Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Orioles glided past the Dodgers, 7-1, in the curtain raiser, while the Rockies overcame the Reds, 6-2.

There may be a fifth team to

See ORIOLES on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Dodgers player, left, gets picked off at first base during their game against the Orioles in the opening of the Triple A Championship Youth Summer Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Two in a row for Brgy. San Antonio

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brgy. San Antonio's Adrian Palacios goes up for a layup against the Hip Hop Thunder's Joshua Norita during the fourth quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Brgy. San Antonio took the early lead in Pool A of the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League after surviving the Hip Hop Thunder, 70-65, in the curtain-raiser last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

San Antonio now has a 2-0 record for the No. 1 spot in the nine-team Pool A, while the Hip Hop Thunder dropped its debut after choking against the former's pressured defense in the closing minutes and losing three key players.

The Hip Hop Thunder was down by only two, 67-65, going into the final two minutes, but failed to pull off a come-from-behind win after committing three costly errors and missing Rolly Paraiso, Dan Mateo, and Joshua Norita in the homestretch. Paraiso was first to go out after committing his fifth foul with more than five minutes left in the match, while Mateo and Norita followed suit due to cramps.

When Mateo left with about four minutes left, the Hip Hop Thunder was holding to a precarious 2-point lead, 60-58. With Mateo out, the Hip Hop Thunder struggled to bring the ball over to its frontcourt against the trapping defense of San Antonio, which turned those miscues into points to grab the lead, 65-63.

San Antonio upped the lead to four, 67-63, off Jaymark De Guzman's fastbreak layup, however, Rodney Sacramento kept the Hip Hop Thunder in the game with his own fastbreak basket.

The Hip Hop Thunder had a chance to move closer after Jack Aranda split his charity in San Antonio's possession, however Isagani Cortez was trapped at midcourt and lost possession. San Antonio trooped to the foul line anew after the steal, however Melvin Cadiang muffed both charities. The Hip Hop Thunder controlled the rebound and Cortez's made a long pitch, but Lester Vertudez was facing two defenders and lost the ball, too.

When the leather returned to San Antonio and the Hip Hop Thunder gave up a preemptive foul, Cadiang this time canned both charities. Then the Hip Hop Thunder tried to go for a quick two, but Vertudez's heave

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Fitting finale: Phelps retires with one last gold

LONDON (AP)— Michael Phelps got up to leave his last news conference at the Olympic pool when his relay mates were asked if they thought he would really stay retired.

Before they could answer, Phelps smiled and said emphatically: "Yes, yes."

The most decorated Olym-

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AP

United States swimmer Michael Phelps holds up a silver trophy after being honored as the most decorated Olympian at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012.